■ METRO / A17
NBI blows lid on bogus law enforcement agency; leader arrested

■ BUSINESS / B1
Forex reserves hit record $20B, help keep peso stable

■ NEWS / A16
Joker hits P3-B cut in human rights victims' compensation from P11B of Marcos loot

■ NEWS / A3
Batangas governor's driver key in solving assassination attempt

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, June 8, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 180 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Villar assured of Senate presidency on July 24

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT'S SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR.

Villar was assured of the top Senate post yesterday after he secured the support of at least 14 of his colleagues, including Senate President Franklin Drilon. Villar needed only 13 votes to succeed Drilon.

Drilon confirmed he had signed the resolution endorsing Villar as the next Senate president, but

VILLAR/ A6

Convicted ex-lawmaker's trips out of jail questioned

By Armand N. Nocum

FORMER OCCIDENTAL MINDORO REP. JOSE Villarosa, who has been convicted of masterminding the murder of two brothers in 1997, was being allowed by prison officials to go to hospitals without court orders to meet certain people and hold press conferences, the father of the victims has charged.

CONVICTED/ A6

BOOBOO: President Estrada points to a lump on his brow as he leaves the Sandiganbayan after taking the witness stand in his defense for the eighth time in the past three months. RAFFY LERMA

PSG linked to torture of 'Erap 5'

Senate told it was also AFP-PNP operation

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

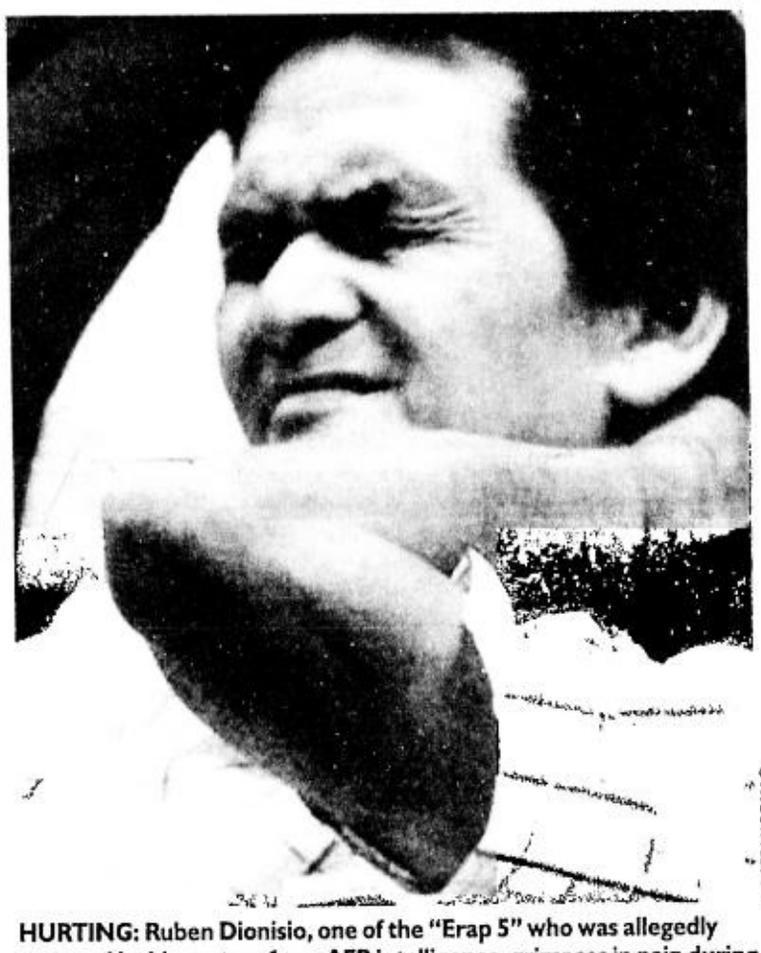
TWO POLICE OFFICERS who took part in the warrantless arrest of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada were identified at the Senate yesterday, but their companions from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) remained unnamed, with military officials snubbing the hearing for the second time.

At the resumption of the inquiry of the Senate defense committee, its chair Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he had been informed that two members of the Presidential Security Group were part of the team that abducted and allegedly tortured the five Estrada supporters on May 22.

"There are names [of PSG men] I am checking out," Biazon said, adding that the two were in active service with the elite unit in charge of President Macapagal-Arroyo's security.

On questioning by Biazon, lawyer Virgilio Pablico said the

PSG LINKED/ A15



ROGER MARGALLO

HURTING: Ruben Dionisio, one of the "Erap 5" who was allegedly tortured by his captors from AFP intelligence, grimaces in pain during the continuing Senate inquiry into the mysterious abduction and detention of the five men on May 22. He arrived in a wheelchair.

Erap says GMA video proof of conspiracy

By Nelson Flores

WRAPPING UP HIS DEFENSE IN his plunder trial, ousted leader Joseph Estrada yesterday presented a video of President Macapagal-Arroyo to prove that his successor had conspired with military and police officers to depose him and grab power.

Estrada, 69, took the witness stand in his defense for the eighth time in three months before the Sandiganbayan Special Division adjourned the hearing. Government prosecutors will continue with their cross-examination of Estrada next week.

The highlight of Wednesday's hearing was the defense presentation of a three-minute video of Ms Arroyo making a speech before the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) in February 2001, a month after Estrada was toppled in the bloodless military-backed revolt that became known as "Edsa II."

In impromptu remarks about her predecessor's ouster, Ms Arroyo told Copa members that she was introduced in January 2000 to "a group who already then was working for eventual withdrawal of support" from Estrada.

ERAP SAYS/ A15

'Character' meets 'traitor' at trial

By Nelson F. Flores

ONCE THE BEST OF friends, former President Joseph Estrada and businessman Mark Jimenez now have nothing good to say about each other.

CHARACTER/ A15

Death convicts not eligible for parole, says Congress

By Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria

CONVICTS ON DEATH ROW WILL be spared the lethal injection but will not be eligible for parole, a report of the bicameral conference committee said yesterday.

The Senate and the House of Representatives came out with a reconciled version of their respective bills less than 24 hours after each chamber abolished the death penalty.

President Macapagal-Arroyo can sign the abolition of the death penalty into law anytime after the Senate and the House of Representatives approved the reconciled version last night.

The Senate ratified the measure last night.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said a bicameral conference committee broke tradition and held a teleconference yesterday and approved the final version of the bill repealing capital punishment.

The bicameral report states that convicts sentenced to *reclusion perpetua*, or a prison term of up to 40 years, in lieu of the death penalty, will not be paroled, according to Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman.

Lagman said the report was ex-

DEATHS/ A6

US won't allow 4 agents to testify at rape trial

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

ASSERTING AUTHORITY OVER the world's superpower, a judge of the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday directed the US Embassy and US military officials to justify their "failure to produce" four naval investigators summoned to testify against the four American Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman.

Judge Benjamin Pozon of the Makati RTC Branch 139 said in open court that the US Embassy and US military officials should "explain and show the court the basis of their claim" of diplomatic immunity for prosecution witnesses Ronald Beltz, Tony Ramos, Brian Curley and Guy Papageorge, all agents of the US Naval Criminal

US WON'T/ A15

WORLD OCEAN DAY

RP is center of marine fish biodiversity in world

By Blanche S. Rivera

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER Reef may be the largest, most famous dive site in the world, but those who brave adverse travel advisories to delve deep into Philippine waters have the best bragging right, after all.

The Philippines is the center of marine fish biodiversity and the home of the most diverse marine ecosystem in the world, a recent study by American biologists Kent Carpenter and Victor Springer revealed.

The study, titled "The Center of the Marine Shore Fish Diversity: The Philippine Islands," was published last year in the Environmental Biology of Fishes Journal No. 72 and cited in the latest Philippines Environment Monitor (PEM) published by the World Bank.

"We marvel at the Great Barrier Reef, but did you know that a group of some 100 scientists has said that the Philippines is the center of marine biodiversity in the world?" former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said in her presentation of the status of the country's coastal and marine resources at the Philippine Plaza Hotel yesterday.

Before the publication of Carpenter's and Springer's study, Wallacea in Indonesia was considered the center of marine bio-

RP IS CENTER/ A6

JOE GALVEZ

SPADE-SHAPED island between Cebu and Bohol where a small fishing village (upper part) is isolated by a long stretch of sand bar. (At right, top) Puerto Galera attractions: Sea urchin, one of the many underwater attractions at the Puerto Galera Bay in Oriental Mindoro, which is now a member of the prestigious Clubs of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World and (middle), rare "Chelonia mydas," nomad of the Philippine Sea. (Bottom) Creatures at the San Miguel Marine Reserve in Albay.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO PDI RESEARCH/06/07/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Palace on budget: All or nothing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

WHERE THE BUDGET IS CONCERNED, IT'S ALL or nothing, was the emphatic message from Malacañang yesterday.

"The Senate must choose between the people or politics," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as hopes dimmed that Congress could pass the 2006 budget bill before it adjourns tomorrow in the face of the Senate insistence on cutting out P64 billion from the country's first trillion-peso budget.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has let it be known that she would not settle for anything less than the P1.053-billion budget that Malacañang and the House of Representatives have endorsed but which the Senate has slashed, claiming that the deleted items would be used as "pork barrel" to promote Charter change.

"As far as the Executive is concerned, the P1.053-trillion budget is the most pro-poor budget in the history of the Philippines. A P64-billion cut would seriously affect the lives of the people as these funds mostly involve social services," said Bunye.

Veto on cuts

The President is expected to veto a budget trimmed of the items—the P3-billion Kilos Asenso Support Fund and the P3.69-billion Kalayaan Barangay Fund—she deems essential to carry out her programs.

With the bicameral conference committee failing to meet last night to close the gap in their positions concerning the Senate cuts, it looked certain that the government would operate on a reenacted P907.56-billion 2005 budget for the rest of 2006.

"They [the panel] did not meet last night. What does this mean? It means there's a deadlock. And if we adjourn, no budget has been enacted for 2006. Automatically, we fall under the operation of the reenacted budget," said administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

House leaders clearly consider the senators to blame if the country has to fall back on a reenacted 2005 budget this year as will happen if the President exercises her veto.

"In times like this, you will know who loves this country," said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the head of the House panel, adding that although there has been no breakthroughs "back-channel" talks were continuing late last night.

Sen. Manuel Villar, the head of the Senate bicam panel, told reporters the Senate bicam panel was set to hold a caucus last night to come up with a final stand on the House position that all the cuts must be restored.

Hardliners

Villar said he was still trying to talk to some hardliners in the panel who were making it tough to arrive at a consensus.

"You know in the Senate, if there's one who takes a hardline stance, it's difficult," he said.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco said the House members had had enough of the Senate's "posturing" on the budget.

"Senators are politicizing the budgetary process too much at the expense of the national interest. We agree that politics is part of the process but this should not take precedence over the people's welfare," said Cuenco.

"Obviously, what opposition senators want is to castrate Malacañang by clipping its spending power," he said.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said the House stand for a full restoration of the budget cuts was "non-negotiable."

"We believe that the P1.05-trillion proposed budget is even inadequate for the country to sustain the momentum for full economic growth," he said.

'Common ground'

The Senate passed a P1.027-trillion budget last Thursday, slashing P26 billion in lump sum appropriations and P37 billion in unprogrammed funds. The House version, approved in April, was P1.04 trillion.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday proposed that the Senate "forge a common ground" and restore the P26-billion cuts to break the impasse.

But Malacañang should reciprocate by agreeing to "recast" the restored amounts for vital projects, he said.

"This means that not all of the P26.4 billion will be put back in their original programs and projects. For example, the Palace should agree that some of the restored items be added to the education budget, given the backlog in teachers," Recto said.

He blamed the stalled budget talks on Malacañang's supposed belief that the "budget is chiseled in stone."

DISAPPOINTMENT is on the face of Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon after his promotion was bypassed by the Commission on Appointment in yesterday's session. Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo (left), a member of the commission, explains the situation to him. ROGER MARGALLO

CA bypasses 'Hello Garci' general

By TJ Burgonio

STILL HAUNTED BY THE "HELlo Garci" wiretapping scandal, Army chief Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday failed to get the nod of the Commission on Appointments on his promotion to the rank of lieutenant-general.

After a lengthy deliberation, the CA committee on defense, chaired by Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo, deferred action on Esperon's promotion on the motion of opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to further question him in the next regular session.

"He's bypassed," Romualdo said in an interview.

Senators Estrada, Sergio Osmeña III and Rodolfo Biazon had opposed Esperon's confirmation by the committee this week, saying they would further grill the general on his "fitness" in view of the wiretapping scandal.

Congress adjourns this week and resumes session on July 24. The CA, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, will resume hearing the appointments of Cabinet, military and other officials in August.

Meeting in plenary, the body confirmed the appointment of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, and Audit Commissioner Juanito Espino Jr.

Also confirmed were Judicial and Bar Council member Regino Hermosisima Jr. and Civil Service Commissioner Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza.

During the CA caucus, Osmeña, the body's minority leader, reiterated Estrada's request to defer the confirmation of Esperon's appointment to the next regular session so he could "prepare his questions."

"The right of Estrada [to question] should be respected. His request is well-grounded because we've been quite busy in the Senate. The timing is not good," he said, referring to the day-long sessions and committee hearings in the run-up to the adjournment.

Biazon agreed with his colleague, saying he wanted to further question Esperon on the military report on the wiretapping scandal prepared by Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga.

By the next regular session, the so-called Mayuga report, would be available, he said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, however, asserted that Esperon should not be faulted for the delay in the disclosure of the report, while Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile argued that it was "unfair to punish a man for an action he could not decide."

But Osmeña retorted: "The issue is not whether the report is in Mayuga's hands. The issue is whether this fellow is fit and proper."

He went on to read excerpts of the conversations purportedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on May 28, 2004, where Esperon's name was mentioned.

The conversations purportedly showed Ms Arroyo and Garcillano conspiring to rig the results of the May 2004 presidential election.

After several exchanges, the lawmakers decided to revert to the committee level to tackle the issue.

You can be a Registered Nurse in just 2 YEARS

U.S. Graduate ka pa!

For High School graduates and Non-Medical course graduates:

- *2-Year Nursing Degree Program*
- *5 trimesters in the Philippines*
- *1 trimester in the USA*
- *U.S. - based curriculum*

** For graduates of Medical courses (Medicine, Medical Technology, X-ray Technology and Physical Therapy): You can be working as a nurse in the U.S. in as short as 12 months! We credit all previous units with a grade of B (2.0) or better*

St. Ignatius Health Science College offers the country's pioneer two-year Nursing program. The curriculum includes a final trimester which qualified students will spend at an affiliated Nursing school in the United States, finishing as U.S. graduates.

St. Ignatius Health Science College has been granted affiliation status with Fresno City College of California to offer part of its U.S. 2-year Associate of Science Nursing Degree in the Philippines. Study 5 trimesters in the Philippines and spend the last trimester in the U.S. You become a U.S. Nursing graduate and automatically qualify for the NCLEX. No other examinations are needed to be licensed in all 50 states.

New batches for 2006 start July 3, September 1 and November 2. The deadline for applications and enrollment is 5 days before the scheduled start dates.

Payment plans, student loans and scholarships are available. Please check our website for regular updates and announcements.

ST. IGNATIUS HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGE

•2/F Prosperity West Center, 92A West Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines • • tel nos: 3738707 / 3736623 • fax: 3758145 • mobile: (0915) 7805797 • • email: st.ignatius.college@gmail.com • website: http://www.stignatiuscollege.com •

'No budget, no election'

By Jerome Aning

NO BUDGET. NO ELECTIONS.

Commission on Election chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday warned that there would be no mid-term elections next year if the budget for this year was not passed by Congress or vetoed by the President.

"They (the President and the lawmakers) probably thought it was okay to reenact the old budget since government departments would continue operating with it; but they apparently forgot that Comelec's budget this year included preparatory funds for next year's election," Abalos said in a press conference.

Abalos also warned of a constitutional crisis if there would be no elections next year since there would no longer be a House of Representatives or Senate, because its members could not remain in office in a hold-over capacity.

"I don't want to be an alarmist but if the 2007 elections don't push through due to lack of funds, we will have a constitutional crisis because we will have no House of Representatives and a Senate with only 12 members," he said.

He added that he did not think the non-passage of the budget was deliberately being done in preparation for a "no-election" scenario next year, saying, "I think there was an oversight, I don't think they (the lawmakers) would not allow this to happen."

Cost of clean '07 polls: $70M

By Daxim L. Lucas

TWO YEARS AFTER THE COUNTRY'S failed foray into automated election counting, a US-based firm is now offering the government not only counting machines but also an apparatus that can take votes, tabulate them, and transmit the results.

Officials of the company called Smartmatic met yesterday with representatives of Congress and will meet with the Commission on Elections brass today to make their pitch.

In an interview, Smartmatic's international elections division president Bon Cook said their product represents a significant improvement over the controversial counting machines bought by the Comelec for the 2004 polls.

Saying that the machines were "tamperproof," he pointed out that the software that runs it has 250 levels of security in addition to its ability to encrypt all data before they are transmitted.

Cook said that his firm is seeking a contract with the government in time for the May 14, 2007 national and local elections, which political pundits expect to be a de facto referendum on President Arroyo's rule and well as a hotly-contested race on the local level.

The Smartmatic official said, however, that it is too late to aim for 100-percent automation in all of the country's polling precincts at this point.

Realistically, he said the government may opt for a pilot computerization program of up to 35 percent of the total number of precincts—a move which he estimates will cost taxpayers anywhere between $65 million and $70 million.

"This includes the hardware, the software, and technical support," he said. "You have to look at it from the point of view of savings since you will not have to print millions and millions of ballots."

Sanchez driver key to Batangas bombing probe

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A DRIVER of Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez is key to the immediate resolution of last week's failed assassination attempt on the governor, the head of the special police team investigating the case said yesterday.

According to Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, the driver might be the "inside man" who police theorized had colluded with those who wanted Sanchez killed.

He said the man, whom he did not identify, was Sanchez's regular driver but failed to report for work on the day the governor's Hummer H2 exploded.

When asked where he was, the driver told the police that he had asked permission from Sanchez to be absent that day, Padilla said.

"But when we asked the governor, he said the driver did not ask permission from him," Padilla told the INQUIRER.

He said he had already asked all the drivers and bodyguards of Sanchez to undergo polygraph tests in Camp Crame.

Padilla said no arrests have yet been made.

He said he had asked Ronaldo Geron, provincial administrator, to coordinate with the Batangas police regarding the polygraph tests on Sanchez's security men.

"I am not saying that (the driver) was a suspect. For all we know he (had reasons to be absent). That's why we are doing polygraph tests to clear them," he said.

Investigators have taken the statements of over a dozen witnesses but some of them were useless, Padilla said.

He said that while the police had not ruled out other motives, they were focusing their investigation on the possible involvement of organized crime groups, including *jueteng* operators, based in Batangas.

He said these groups had an axe to grind against Sanchez because he had ordered a crackdown on all illegal activities in the province. Padilla said these groups had the capability of using bombs.

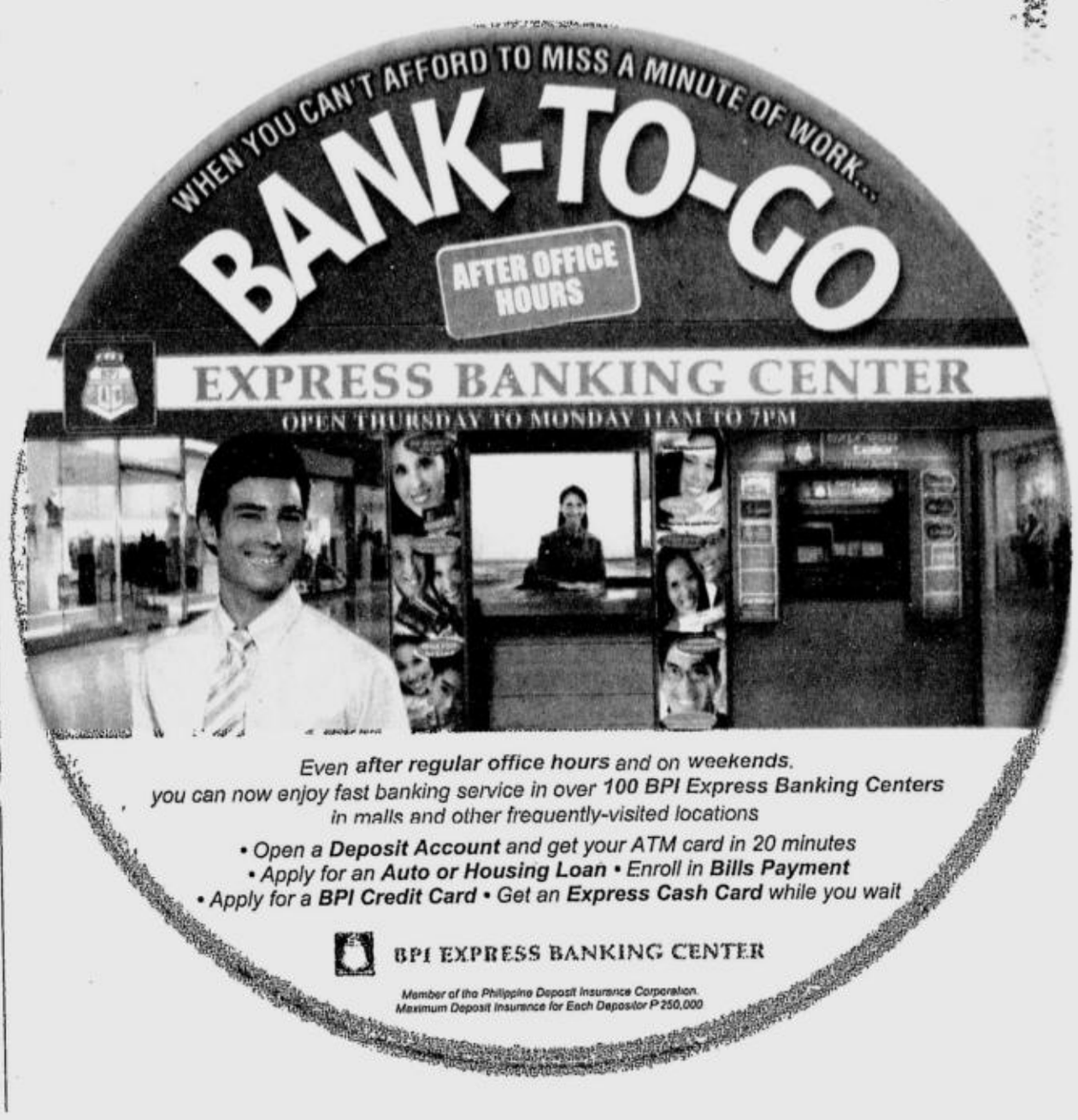
SANCHEZ

He said they were also checking on reports that a relative of Guillermo Gamo, Batangas' resident Ombudsman who was killed last year, had warned that he would avenge the death of the antigraft officer. The explosion happened just two days after the first death anniversary of Gamo.

Gamo's relative, Padilla said, was supposedly a member of the New People's Army.

"Although it was just hearsay, we will still check its veracity," he said.

Padilla said PNP explosives experts were having difficulty reconstructing the bomb used in the attack. The reconstruction of the bomb was important because it would tell investigators how it was likely planted.



BIR eyes realty tax evaders

THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue (BIR) is tightening its monitoring of one-time transactions (Onett) to curb irregularities committed in the payment of taxes in transfers of titles of real properties.

Onett covers transfers of title of real properties requiring payment of the capital gains tax, estate tax, donor's tax or documentary stamp tax.

BIR officials said the revenue agency was checking the legitimacy of documents submitted for Onett after uncovering several irregular transactions in the payment of the corresponding real estate taxes.

The discoveries consequently led to the filing of tax evasion cases by the BIR with the Department of Justice under the operation RATE (Run After Tax Evaders).

Revenue Region No. 7-Quezon City Revenue, which already has filed one in coordination with the BIR National Office, is scheduled to file several cases more against individuals and corporations for gross violations of the Tax Code on Onett.

"We are continuing with our investigation and gathering of evidence against suspected persons who committed irregularities in the transfer of tiles of real properties," Regional Director Valeroso said. "Strict monitoring of the Onett is being done on a regular basis."

BIR's Onett tightening followed the creation of a Task Force attached to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate irregularities in the transfer of titles of real properties. *Cynthia D. Bulana*

FIRST TIME EVER!
BUY 1 TAKE 1
ON DIAMOND PEEL
from June 5-10, 2006 only.

Turn back the clock. Look 5 years younger. Recapture that soft, smooth, flawless skin you once had. You can with **Diamond Peel**...

- Reduce fine lines and wrinkles
- Fade acne scars, age spots and other blemishes
- Even out skin color and give it a healthy, youthful glow
- Refine pores and prevent breakouts
- Give your skin renewed elasticity and suppleness

Get back that beautiful, glowing skin with the Diamond Peel. Everyone who has tried it can't get enough of it. Find out why. Call Facial Care NOW.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #3097, Series of 2006.

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA, Since 1919, First in Asia AND
METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.

The Outstanding Workers of the Republic '06

"Pagkilala sa Kusa't Galing ng Manggagawang Pilipino"

TOWER in a Nutshell

The TOWER (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) Awards was founded in 1975 by the Rotary Club of Manila as an annual search for outstanding "blue collar" workers of the country. It aims to recognize the contribution to economic development of the legions of skilled workers who constitute the backbone of our country's industrial capacity. The awards program transcended the confines of a Club's concern because of its nationwide significance in uplifting the Filipino workers' morale and social status leading to greater prestige at the workplace – to the entrepreneur / employer and the colleagues, to the family and the community while enhancing individual career opportunities and industrial peace.

The awards project was suspended for ten years but was revived in1996 in response to the call to revitalize excellence and productivity at the workplace and energize collective skills of our workers for global competition

Most recently, the borderless competition for labor effectiveness and efficiency with the dawn of globalization and the surge in information technology, changed the work paradigm, the way we work and how companies operate. It gave rise to the decline in the industrial "blue collar" labor force which resulted in the rapid rise in the number of workers in the informal sectors as well as of white collar workers. The latter group "mushroomed" and dominated the information technology, telecommunications, banking, insurance, professional services, and even the manufacturing sectors.

To date, a total of one hundred and seventy eight (178) TOWER awardees have been recognized.

The ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA together with METROBANK FOUNDATION, Inc., and the other cooperators and supporters namely; The International Labor Organization (ILO-Manila Office), CENTURY PARK HOTEL, CHINESE BUSINESS CLUB, INC. Technological University of the Philippines, Pamantasan Ng Lungsod Ng Maynila, Central Colleges of the Philippines, System Technology Inc. (STI) and other state colleges and universities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, salute and commend the 2006 TOWER AWARDEES. It is our hope that Tower Awards' modest contribution in recognizing work excellence, productivity and innovation can spell the difference towards decent work and harmony at the workplace thereby preserving jobs and enhancing employment opportunities.

[PROVINCIAL LAUNCHING]

[MESSAGES]

It is with great pleasure that I once again greet the winners of the TOWER Awards 2006.

I also laud the Metrobank Foundation for taking time to recognize outstanding examples of competence, commitment and integrity from among the ranks of blue collar and white collar workers all over the country.

These awards are fitting tributes to the outstanding men and women who learned and acquired skills through years of hard and committed work. Your sheer industry and excellent work ethics prove that the lack of education is not a hindrance to achieving one's full potentials, if one has the drive to excel in his chosen profession.

I hope that this recognition will inspire the rest of our people to emulate this year's awardees, thereby expanding the circle of outstanding Filipinos who are able to make meaningful contributions to our society and in the fulfillment of our shared vision for our country.

Congratulations to all the winners and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines

On behalf of Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation Chairman, Dr. George S.K. Ty, I am pleased to extend our felicitations to the Rotary Club of Manila for the annual search for The Outstanding Workers of the Republic or TOWER Awards 2006. Since 1998, when we first became part of this commendable and worthwhile undertaking, we have always looked forward to the conduct of the TOWER Awards as a significant component of our own Excellence Awards Program.

In the context of their role as essential partners in enhancing the global competitiveness of our human resources, the TOWER Awards is more than just a simple recognition program for blue-collar workers. In honoring the achievements of exemplary individuals who have gone beyond the limits of their education and training or worked around the confines of organizational constraints and resources, we hope to present our people with models of dedication, competence and creativity among our workers. In the process, we hope to eventually inspire not just their peers but the rest of our people to likewise persevere in bringing about dynamism and positive change in our own communities.

We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Manila as well as our other partners in continuing to believe in the immeasurable value and relevance of this initiative. At a time when hopelessness and despair seem to increasingly erode our people's faith and confidence in themselves and in our social institutions, this award affirms the importance of hard work and discipline and the need to persevere if we are to help ensure our future as a nation.

Congratulations to all the winners and Mabuhay!

Dr. Placido L. Mapa Jr.
President, Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

Message to the Rotary Club of Manila Tower Awards

On behalf of the ILO Subregional Office in Manila, I wish to extend our warmest greetings to the officials and staff of the Rotary Club of Manila on its Tower Awards 2006.

I congratulate you in this worthy endeavor of recognizing and giving honor to the Filipino workers. The Tower Awards is an inspiring and commendable project which signifies Filipino talent, skills and work ethics. Today, there is probably not a corner of the world that is untouched by the hands of Filipino workers.

Together with the Rotary Club of Manila, we share a goal and vision of Decent Work for all Filipino men and women: work that respects men's and women's fundamental rights as workers and as citizens as human beings; work that provides a sustainable standard of living and adequate social protection. I wish to thank the active support of our partners, including the civil society such as the Rotary Club of Manila as Decent Work finds a special place and meaning in the Philippine society.

I wish you continue success and to this year's winners, my personal congratulations for a well-deserved award.

Mabuhay ang manggagawang Pilipino!

Linda Wirth
Subregional Director, International Labour Organization

My most cordial greetings to the RCM TOWER AWARDS Committee on its search for this year *Ten Outstanding Workers of the Republic*. The whole nation, again salutes the unwavering dedication and hard work every committee have put into sustaining the life of this project for almost two decades now.

Again, this marks another milestone in the Labor movement as we search the workplace the finest of OUR SKILLED BLUE AND WHITE COLLAR WORKERS who had dedicated their lives in the pursuit of excellence and perfection in their respective fields and crafts while at the same time, uplifting the culture and quality and productivity in their places of work. The award is a testimony to the Filipino worker, renowned not only domestically even globally for its competence, diligence, perseverance, innovativeness, flexibility, reliability and strength of character. The Philippine Labor is not competing on low wages anymore as others may perceived. It has graduated to a higher level of competition and that is quality of the workforce.

With this award, the committee had undoubtedly made our workforce more productive and conscious of their responsibilities to themselves, their employees and the nation. Much has been said about the TOWER Awards and I am sure, many more good things will be attributed to it in the future. I have no doubt that the prestige and dignity associated with the awards will continue to motivate the present and previous awardees to constantly strive to better themselves as well as inspire others to do the same. To this I say, we owe much to the Rotary Club of Manila, for the exemplary social consciousness you have shown toward the end goal of economic development and nation-building.

And to the coming awardees, my warmest congratulations. You are our country's pride and hope for a better Philippines!
Thank you and more power!

George S. Lee
President, Chinese Filipino Business Club, Inc.

Blue collar workers are the cornerstone of a nation's productivity. Dedication and passion are the hallmarks of their craft. However, they are often unrecognized for their painstaking efforts in manufacturing and service even as their immense contribution to the industry's success cannot be underrated. Hence, in our desire to promote SERVICE in the Rotary tradition and with the unceasing efforts of our partners and corporate sponsors, we honor each year The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER) in the annual TOWER Awards.

In behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila, my sincerest gratitude to all those who have made this worthy project an overwhelming success. To the winners, certainly this award does not completely justify the feat you have accomplished for your quest to keep this country economically viable. Indeed, it is with recognitions like this that our club, the First and the Largest in Asia, has made its mark, not only in the world of Rotary, but to humanity as well. Warm and cordial felicitations to one and all.

Cesar C. Ubaldo MD, FPOGS
President, Rotary Club of Manila

On behalf of the officers and members of the Rotary Club of Manila, I would like to extend my greetings and congratulations to all awardees for this year's search for The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER Awards 2006).

In today's world, blue collars do not denote inferiority to white collar. In fact, it is the blue collar workers that prime industrial growth by dint of their value-adding contributions to a nation's total output and productivity.

I also would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC. for its tireless contributions to the TOWER AWARDS project.

Furthermore, it is with pride to take note the outstanding work done by the 2006 TOWER AWARDS committee chaired by VPE Benny Laguesma. This year, the committee was able to add additional thirteen state colleges and universities nationwide to provide scholarship to the awardees especially to the awardees living in the rural areas.

Finally, I thank my co-Rotarians who supported the project as sponsors, who gave their time to ensure we hold this awards ceremony for 2006 with much pride, honor and satisfaction.

Mabuhay ang manggagawang Pilipino!

Sgd. Delfin T. Hallare Jr.
Director-in-Charge, Rotary Club of Manila

The Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) and the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) take pride in once again recognizing and paying tribute to the winners of the search for The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER) Awards.

Indeed we have reasons to be proud of. Not only are we able to select the best among the best nominees who vied for the awards. More importantly, we have been able to enlarge our throng of sponsors and cooperators to ensure the success of this year's search and awarding ceremonies.

We are truly indebted to the generosity of the International Labor Organization (ILO – Manila Office) and the Chinese Filipino Business Club (CFBC), as well as the educational institutions throughout the country which offered scholarship grants to enhance the skill and continuing education of the TOWER awardees and their dependents. May our cooperators and supporters continue to extend their assistance and cooperation to the RCM in the annual TOWER Awards.

To our 2006 TOWER winners, our warmest congratulations.

RCM also conveys its sincerest appreciation to the Board of Judges headed by Senator Manuel A. Roxas II for sharing their invaluable time before and during the final judging process.

On behalf of the 2006 TOWER Awards Organizing Committee and the other support sub-committees, the RCM once again salutes and expresses its deepest gratitude to all of you.

Benvenido B. Laguesma
Chairman, TOWER Awards 2006

[TOWER 2006 AWARDEES]

BALLERA, ROLANDO C.
Plant Mechanic (15 years in service)
Philippine Phosphate Fertilizers Corporation
LIDE, Isabel, Leyte

December 10, 1960, 45 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment:
High School, (Isabel National Agriculture and Vocational School)

GIMANG, ANTONIO Delos Reyes
Production Line Team Member, 12 years in service
TOYOTA MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORP.
Toyota Special Economic Zone
Sta. Rosa, Tagaytay Highway, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

May 28, 1972, 33 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment:
College Undergraduate - Bachelor of Engineering TUP-Taguig

MACADINI, MARIA CHRISTINA
Production Operator, 2 years in service
AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES
Km 22 East Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City

April 17, 1979, 26 years old, Female, Married

Highest Educational Attainment :
High School, Graduate - 1995

TULANG, BRANDO B.
Technician III, 5 years in service
AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES
Km 22 East Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City

December 31, 1978, 28 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment :
Vocational, TUP Manila - Engineering Technology

ZALDUA, JERRY Del Valle
Ringframe Maintenance "A", 3 years in service
INDO PHIL TEXTILE MILLS, INC.
Bo. Lambakin, Marilao Bulacan

January 15, 1958, 48 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment :
Vocational School, Torres Vocational School (1983)

HUERTE, MARCIAL N.
Plant Operator, 12 years in service
MAGELLAN COGENERATION, INC. (MCI)
Phase 2 Cavite Economic Zone, Rosario Cavite

September 27, 1957, 48 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment :
Cebu Central Colleges, BS Marine transportation

OLIPENDO, DEOLINDO B.
Leadman: Heavy Equipment Mechanic, 29 years in service
DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES, INC.
Camp Phillips, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon

August 18, 1948, 58 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment:
Automotive Electricity

ANOBLING, GERMAN D.
Wastewater Network Operative 3, 8 years and 7 months in service
MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
MWSS Administration Building
Katipunan Road, 1105 Balara, Quezon City

February 02, 1959, 46 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment :
High School, DECS - NETRC (Nov. 1995)

GALANG, ALEXANDER M.
Corporate Communication Associate 2, 8 years in service
MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
MWSS Administration Building
Katipunan Road, 1105 Balara, Quezon City

February 15, 1968, 38 years old, Male, Married

Highest Educational Attainment:
Vocational,SAMSON Institute of Technology

[SPONSORS]

STI

PETRON

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WHO WANTS RUBBER STAMP PARLIAMENT?

Sotto, Pangilinan warn of perils of Cha-cha

A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENTARY system is nothing but a rubber stamp legislature of traditional politicians who want to perpetuate themselves in power. Thus, contrary to the assertions of its proponents, a shift to parliament will hardly solve the country's political turmoil.

This is the gist of the paper drawn up by former Sen. Vicente Sotto III in detailing his opposition to current moves to amend or change the Constitution and replace the current presidential system of government.

More important, Charter change will wipe out the Constitution's impeachment provision and, in the process, absolve President Macapagal-Arroyo of all impeachable offenses she has committed, the former senator said.

In Cotabato City, Sen. Francisco Pangilinan has warned that swift moves to rewrite the 1987 Constitution, notwithstanding legal obstacles, could bless a sitting president with an indefinite term extension.

Pangilinan said the Sigaw ng Bayan petition for Charter change seeks to put the power of setting subsequent polls upon a unicameral Parliament.

Without naming President Macapagal-Arroyo as eventual beneficiary of the proposition, Pangilinan said this particular amendment proposed in the Charter change petition reduced to ambiguity the holding of the 2010 elections.

"We will never know whether elections would be held in 2010 or in 2013 or when else, because they are trying to alter the basis of holding that election, the Constitution itself, and leave it to the Parliament to decide on," Pangilinan told a forum hosted by the Pastoral Parish Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) at the Notre Dame University gymnasium here on Saturday.

UNITED AGAINST CHA-CHA. Church leaders headed by Bishops Deogracias Yniquez and Julio Labayen join Rep. Etta Rosales and other leaders of militant organizations in a press conference reiterating their position against Charter change and state violence and announcing plans for an Independence Day protest on June 12. JOAN BONDOC

Meanwhile, former Commission on Elections chair Christian Monsod said he is in the process of organizing a nonpartisan movement of the so-called "silent majority."

"We have yet to come up with the group's name but certainly we will launch this 'kilusan' before the end of June," he said.

Monsod said the group will campaign for a peaceful change, urging the silent majority to speak out "because right now the very vocal are the minority with personal agenda."

Sotto said danger awaits all Filipinos once the country shifts to a parliamentary system of government.

"A parliamentary government is a system where you can govern even if people do not like you," Sotto said, obviously in reference to the growing unpopularity of President Arroyo, who has refused to step down and has fought off impeachment despite widespread clamor for her ouster.

Furthermore, Sotto said that in a parliamentary system, traditional politicians are able to govern without term limits, strengthening the rule of dynasties and political oligarchs in the country.

"We lose our right to choose our head of government in a parliamentary system," he said. "Championing the interest of poor and marginalized Filipinos is the last priority of traditional politicians who dominate the executive and legislative branches of government.

The opposition leader said the presidential system of government is an improvement of the parliamentary system as illustrated by the example of the United States, which revolted against the British and improved on the colonizers' parliamentary system.

Sotto said all successful parliamentary systems have a bicameral legislative structure. Under the bicameral system, each chamber is prevented from abusing their respective powers and authority.

Nash B. Maulana and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

RP-Aussie VFA close to conclusion

SECURITY OFFICIALS EXPECT to conclude within the year an agreement with Australia covering the presence of its troops here for joint exercises.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said they are nearing agreement with their Australian counterparts over the draft Agreement on the Treatment of Visiting Forces.

He said the agreement would likely be submitted to the Philippine Senate within the year for ratification.

It will only be the country's second visiting forces agreement other than the one it has with the United States.

"I've seen the draft. We're getting near, there are not too many disagreements anymore," Cruz told reporters recently.

According to defense officials, the agreement with Australia was patterned after the Status of Forces Agreement among member-nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) rather than after the 1999 RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Cruz said with President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval, they have formed a top-level negotiating panel with Canberra officials.

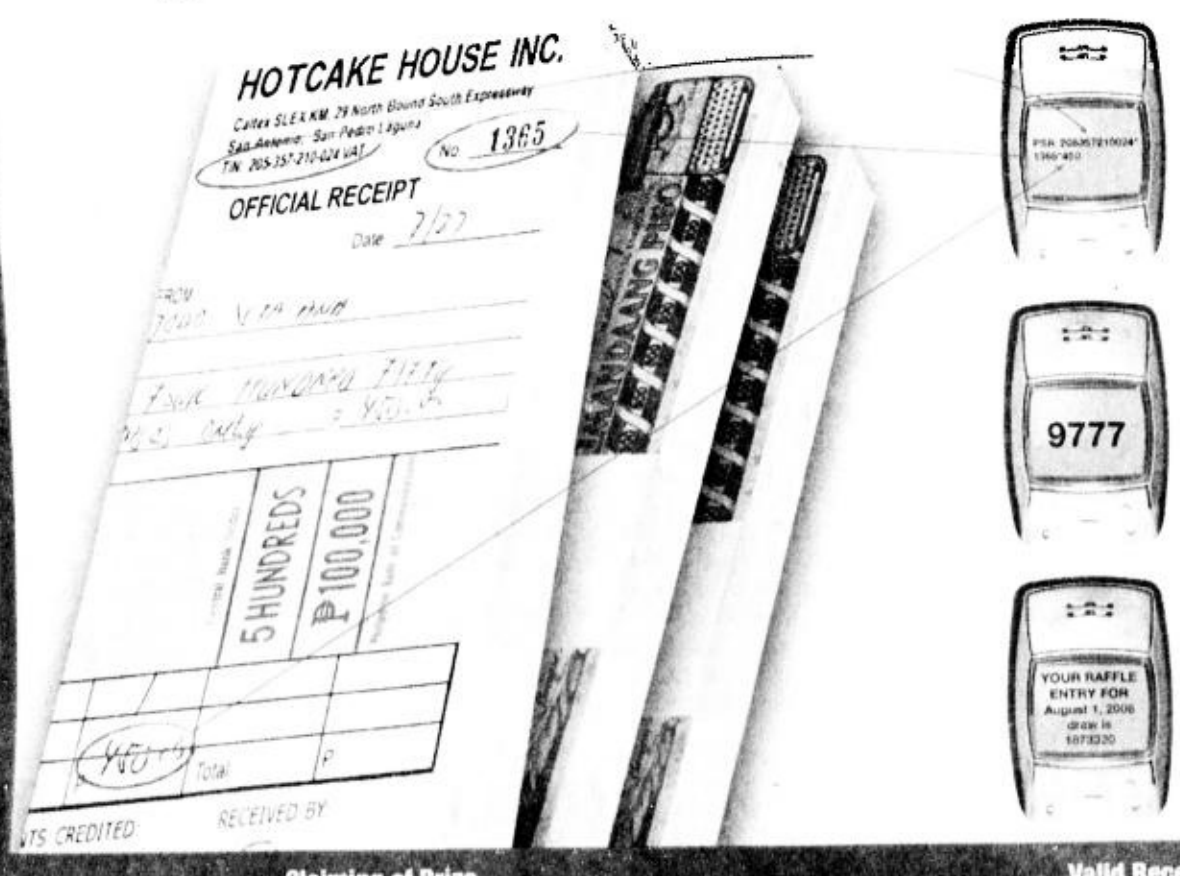
The negotiating panel would be composed of representatives from Department of National Defense, the Department of Foreign Affairs and other concerned agencies.

PARA MAGING MILYONARYO, HINGIN ANG RESIBO.

LINGGO LINGGO MARAMING INSTANT MILYONARYO!

HURRY! Start sending text entries NOW!

All text entries starting June 1 are valid for the first draw on AUGUST 1.



NAPAKADALING SUMALI!

I-text ang keyword PSR kasama ang mga detalye ng resibo : PSR <space> Tax Identification Number (TIN) of establishment that issued the receipt * Receipt Number * Receipt Amount

9777

Send to 9777 (SMART, TALK N' TEXT & ADDICT MOBILE). Every P100 value of the receipt entitles you to one text-raffle entry. As an added bonus, you get an extra text-raffle entry for remaining fractions P50 and above. *For example, you can text 5 times and be entitled to 5 raffle entries using the same P450 receipt details, but only 4 entries for a P449 receipt.*

YOUR RAFFLE ENTRY FOR August 1, 2006 draw is 1073320

The cost per text entry is only P1.50 (introductory price). All text-raffle entries will be issued a unique raffle entry number.

The more entries you send, the higher the chances of becoming a millionaire!

Schedule of Draws

- Receipts issued should fall within the weekly period prior to the draw date to qualify except for the first draw. Weekly draw day is every Tuesday and deadline of text-raffle entries is 12:00 midnight of the Monday before the draw.

	Draw Dates	Qualified Receipt Dates
1st draw	August 1, 2006	June 1 to July 31, 2006
2nd draw	August 8, 2006	August 1 to 7, 2006
3rd draw	August 15, 2006	August 8 to 14, 2006

Succeeding weekly draw periods will be announced regularly in tv, radio and print ads.

- The draw of the winning raffle entry number/s shall be televised live on the scheduled draw date.

Claiming of Prize

- P1 Million per winner. There will be five (5) winners on the first draw.
- Winning raffle entry number/s shall be published in newspapers.
- Winners will be notified via text and a call on his/her cellphone as to where and how to claim the prize.
- To claim prize, winner must present the following:
  1. Original copy of the receipt used for the text-raffle entry. The date of which must be within the coverage period for that particular draw.
  2. Saved notification text message on the cellphone.
  3. Two valid IDs.
  4. Authorization letter (Applicable only if the receipt is in the name of a company and not under the claimant's name).
- Prize unclaimed after 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited.

Valid Receipt Samples:

Official Receipt

Sales/Cash Invoice

Cash Register Machine/POS Receipt

Receipt should have minimum amount of P100.

A joint project of:

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE 1904 PHILIPPINES

PAGCOR

Powered by: philweb

Para sa karagdagang kaalaman, tumawag sa (02) 338 -9777

Death convicts not eligible for parole, says Congress

From page A1

pected to be approved by both houses of Congress last night.

The House version was "silent" on whether those meted out life imprisonment (and those whose death sentences will be downgraded to life terms) were eligible for parole, while the Senate version downgraded the death penalty to reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment without parole.

"Persons convicted of offenses punished with *reclusion perpetua*, or whose sentences will be reduced to *reclusion perpetua*, by reason of this act, shall not be eligible for parole under Republic Act No. 4103, otherwise known as the Indeterminate Sentence Law, as amended," the one-page draft law said.

It said the penalty of *reclusion perpetua* would be imposed "if the law violated makes use of the nomenclature of the penalties of the Revised Penal Code." If not, the penalty of life imprisonment will be imposed.

The draft law also states that the Board of Pardons and Parole should publish "at least once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation the names of persons convicted of offenses punished with reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment by reason of this Act who are being considered or recommended for commutation or pardon."

Executive clemency

However, the draft law also said "nothing herein shall limit the power of the President to grant executive clemency" under the Constitution.

Passage of the law would automatically commute the sentences of about 1,200 death row inmates in the Philippines.

The government executed four convicted rapists and three highwaymen between 1999 and 2000 before the government imposed a moratorium amid pressure from the Catholic Church, the European Union and human rights groups.

Lagman told reporters "studies show that the death penalty is not a deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes."

However, supporters of capital punishment warned of a crime backlash. "It looks like the criminals are going to celebrate tonight," Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco said.

Celebrate life

President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed Congress for passing a bill abolishing the death penalty and assured the public that the move did not signal a weakness on crime.

"We celebrate the victory of life as I thank Congress for its immediate action in abolishing the death penalty law," Ms Arroyo said at the opening of the National Forum on Sustainable Strategy of Coastal and Marine Resources, indicating that she would soon sign the bill into law.

She also brushed aside criticism that eliminating capital punishment would embolden criminals.

"Make no mistake about it: The abolition of the death penalty will be complemented by a stricter and sterner enforcement of the law on all fronts," she said.

The President got her wish when the Senate and House approved the other day the abolition of the death penalty law, which she wanted done before Congress adjourns on Friday. The abolition came weeks before she was to visit the Vatican for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

"This is not a victory for criminals as some would claim, but rather clear proof that Filipinos respect life and uphold the virtue and religious doctrines that are expected of us as a dominant Christian nation," she said.

The President asked religious leaders to help in the "moral and spiritual transformation of convicted offenders ... particularly those serving maximum jail terms even if they are not allowed parole."

She said authorities would improve the country's jail facilities so that these would be more "conducive" to prison rehabilitation and reform programs.

Deep appreciation

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) also expressed deep appreciation to Congress for abolishing the death penalty.

"This decision is consistent with our long-standing and ongoing advocacy for the sacredness of human life whose Creator is God Himself. Human life, whosoever it is, is sacred," CBCP president Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said in a statement.

Amid fears from anticrime groups that the abolition of the death penalty would only encourage crime, Lagdameo called for sweeping reforms in the country's law enforcement and justice system.

He said the system was perceived to be biased against the poor and powerless.

Lagdameo also urged the implementation of a rehabilitation program for prisoners "through values formation and income-generating projects ... in order to generate the sense of humanity and usefulness among them."

He said "better ways of curbing criminality need to be discovered and advocated."

"The other side of the abolition of the death penalty and the curbing of criminality is the improvement of the quality of life," said Lagdameo.

Stop extrajudicial killings

While lauding the impending abolition of the death penalty and the President's role in it, a coalition of political and religious groups said the government should also put a stop to the extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists.

"There's an inconsistency on the government that it fights for the people's right to life by seeking the repeal of the death penalty law, while at the same time we are witness to extrajudicial killings," Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said at the press conference of the coalition Pagkakaisa Kontra sa Chacha at Karahasan (Pagkakaisa).

Pagkakaisa said the government should be answerable for the murders under the principle of command responsibility. It also believes the military and the police are to blame for them.

"The series of extrajudicial political killings, which is increasing in frequency and number, in most circumstances is attributable to rightist elements in the military and the police. GMA's Malacañang is also answerable by virtue of command responsibility," said Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen, reading from the Pagkakaisa statement.

Despite the killings of their fellow leftist activists, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño voted to abolish the death penalty.

Mistake

House Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar and Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar also voted to abolish the death penalty although they had voted for it in the 9th Congress.

"After studying and observing what was happening, I realized that I have made a very big mistake ... So, I'm very happy today that again, I will have a chance to vote and rectify my mistake and the mistake of that law," Kintanar explained his vote to his colleagues. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila, and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Hazel Villa, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Suddenly, death convicts have future

By Jocelyn R. Uy
Metro

ALL OF A SUDDEN, DEATH convict Roberto has a future.

The future he envisions extends beyond the four walls of Building 1 of the New Bilibid Prisons' maximum security compound, where he and a thousand other death convicts are incarcerated.

"We felt like we were given another shot at freedom with the repeal of the death penalty law," said Roberto, whose real name has been withheld for security purposes.

Roberto said if he were blessed enough, he could be granted parole by the Board of Pardons and Parole, if he qualified.

The Senate and the House of Representatives voted Tuesday to finally scrap the death penalty law. President Macapagal-Arroyo, who certified the bill as urgent, is also expected to sign the abolition into law soon.

Under the Senate version, the death penalty is downgraded to life imprisonment without parole.

Death row inmates were jubilant upon hearing the news on the radio Tuesday night.

"That is very good news. We praise God for that," Roberto cheerfully said.

At the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City, the news also brought smiles to the faces of female death convicts.

"The news made them happy. You will see their happiness in the way they moved around [the facility]," CIW superintendent Rachel Ruelo told the INQUIRER yesterday.

About 30 female convicts are on death row at the facility, mostly for drug offenses, kidnapping and murder, Ruelo said.

Thanksgiving

The women are already planning to offer a thanksgiving Mass on Sunday. "I am happy for them. These women have already realized the wrongs they had done," Ruelo said.

She said the female convicts were also praying that Ms Arroyo would sign the abolition into law before June 12.

Roberto said he expected inmates to be able to move with some "sort of freedom" inside the maximum security compound because they would no longer be branded as death row convicts.

Death convicts are usually under the watchful eyes of security guards and gatekeepers. They have to be escorted when going to the chapel inside the compound.

They cannot participate in other activities because their movements were restricted, unlike those sentenced to life imprisonment who can roam around the compound without escorts.

"Most of the time, our minds were focused on thinking about death by lethal injection and praying and pleading with God that it would be abolished. It was torture," Roberto said.

The Alliance of Death Row Inmates, composed of the 1,079 death convicts at the NBP, mostly dedicate their time campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty.

Vocational courses

"Now, we can concentrate on other things and plan ahead for the future," said Roberto, who was meted out the death penalty for kidnapping with frustrated murder 12 years ago.

They could also freely take vocational courses and non-formal education offered by the Bureau of Corrections as part of the rehabilitation program for inmates, he said.

Roberto recently enrolled in a refrigeration course. In fact, he was present when classes started on Monday. Others are studying automotive, electrical and air-conditioning courses, he said. *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Villar assured of Senate presidency

From page A1

said the leadership change would take effect when Congress opens a new session on July 24.

"Yes, I signed the resolution consistent with what I said before that I will sign (it) in support of his bid for the Senate presidency when we open our session in July," he said.

Asked if Villar would be the Senate president when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her annual State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the joint opening of Congress, Drilon said: "Yes, if he has 13 signatures in the morning (of July 24)."

The Senate and the House of Representatives hold elections in the morning at the annual opening of session, and the elected Senate president and Speaker host the Sona at the House of Representatives in the afternoon.

There was no immediate reaction from Malacañang on the impending change in the Senate leadership.

Ms Arroyo and Drilon were uncomfortable with each other during her Sona in 2005. Drilon, together with the Liberal Party he heads, withdrew support from Ms Arroyo at the height of controversy over the alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential election.

Flavier breaks news

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier broke the news that Villar already had the numbers to succeed Drilon.

Flavier said he had signed the resolution calling for the "smooth transition" of the Senate presidency from Drilon to Villar in compliance with their gentleman's agreement in 2004.

Flavier said he was the ninth senator to formally back Villar. According to him, the others who signed ahead of him included Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo, who are all members of Villar's so-called Wednesday Group.

Flavier said he also saw the signatures of Senators Lito Lapid, Pia Cayetano and Alfredo Lim.

Flavier said Villar met with Drilon at noon yesterday. "The mere fact that they had a one-on-one meeting means that he (Villar) has the numbers and (his assumption) is now a fait accompli," he said.

Two senators told the INQUIRER separately that the resolution had the support of 11 senators from the majority bloc—Drilon, Villar, Pangilinan, Flavier, Recto, Arroyo, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Lapid, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Cayetano and Enrile—and three from the minority bloc—Lim, Jinggoy Estrada and his mother, Luisa "Loi" Estrada.

Only Flavier, Cayetano and Pangilinan admitted they signed the resolution.

Not really good news to Palace

Drilon caused a stir last month when he said that Villar still needed to get 13 signatures if he wanted to become the new Senate president. Other senators also said they were not bound by the 2004 agreement between Drilon and Villar.

Flavier said the change in Senate leadership was not necessarily good news to Malacañang. According to him, Villar wants to project an image that he is "independent from the President."

Convicted ex-lawmaker's trips out of jail questioned

From page A1

Villarosa's "special treatment" was revealed in a letter to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez by former Rep. Ricardo V. Quintos, who asked for the relief of New Bilibid Prisons Director Vicente Vinarao for alleged "blatant" violations of the law.

Quintos, whose sons Michael and Paul Quintos were killed on Dec. 13, 1997 in Occidental Mindoro's capital town of Mamburao, claimed that Villarosa was brought to the Makati Medical Center in Makati City for "an ordinary checkup" without the benefit of a court order.

He quoted witnesses as saying that the convict "was up and about meeting several groups of people."

"Apparently, it was a ruse to allow him to meet with suspicious people who would have been required to show proof of their identity and to register had they visited Mr. Villarosa at the Bilibid Prisons," Quintos said.

On March 1, a Quezon City court imposed the death sentence on Villarosa and alleged New People's Army members—Eduardo Hermoso, Josue Ungsod, Manolito Matricio, Mario Tobias, Ruben Balaguer and Gelito Bautista—who were collectively called "Mamburao 6," for the killing of Quintos' sons.

In his testimony, Hermoso pointed to Villarosa as the mastermind. He later recanted his statement, claiming illegal arrest and torture.

Radio interview

Quinto enclosed in his letter a "CD audio recording of a radio interview with Congresswoman Amelita Villarosa last Sunday June 4, 2006 wherein the latter confirmed that (Jose Villarosa) ... was at a private hospital in Manila for several days already ... without the benefit of a court order."

"Mr. Villarosa also continues to be interviewed over Bambi FM radio station in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, discussing not only the merits of his appeal but even uttering libelous statements accusing our family of having bribed (Quezon City Regional Trial Court) Judge Theresa de la Torre Yadao who rendered the decision convicting him," Quintos said.

Vinarao told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview that he decided to bring Villarosa to the hospital following the recommendation of the national penitentiary's doctor, Lourdes Razon.

'Life and death'

It was a matter of life and death, Vinarao said. The convict, who was reportedly diabetic, was reportedly experiencing shortness of breath, cramps in his swollen legs and low blood pressure of 90/60 on May 30.

"Our hospital does not have enough facilities to attend to his needs," the prisons chief said. If they waited for the court order, which he said would take a week, Villarosa "could have died," he added.

Vinarao stressed that Villarosa was sent to another hospital with six escorts and brought back to the maximum security compound yesterday afternoon after test results showed that he was fit to return.

He also said he immediately made a written report to Gonzalez about the incident on May 31.

In his letter to the justice secretary, Quintos said Vinarao's decision was a "blatant violation of prison rules and regulations, as well as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act."

Gonzalez said he had already met with Quintos and he had ordered that the "press conferences" be stopped.

Vinarao defended

But he defended Vinarao, saying "it's not illegal (to bring a convicted prisoner to a hospital) as long as there is really proof that the person is sick."

He cited the case of convicted rapist former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who had repeatedly been given "medical furloughs." Court orders are no longer necessary for medical furloughs of convicted prisoners, he said, noting that such order only applied to prisoners with "pending cases."

Gonzalez said the decision on whether to allow a convicted prisoner to go to the hospital "is within the discretion" of the prison director and usually after a permission from me."

But he said the present medical furlough of Villarosa did not reach him and that Vinarao approved it after deciding that the matter was "life threatening."

Ombudsman

As to the media interviews, Gonzalez said that although they were "not really taboo," he had ordered the interviews stopped.

"There had been many instances when media asked for permission to interview prisoners. In this particular case, according to Vinarao, Villarosa simply answered a call from a radio station in Mindoro asking to comment on reports that he had died.

Gonzalez said an investigation was no longer needed because Quintos was planning to raise his complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman.

When asked to comment on Quintos' demand for his relief, Vinarao said the family was just angry, being the offended party.

"I only allowed it (sending Villarosa to the hospital) for humanitarian reasons as an administrator of this penitentiary. I am impartial. Whether he is a convict or not, we had to send him to a better hospital because it was an emergency," he said. *With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy and PDI Research*

RP is center of marine fish biodiversity in the world

From page A1

diversity in the world, but a closer look revealed that central Philippines had a "higher concentration of species per unit area than anywhere else in Indonesia."

Following the Philippines in marine biodiversity concentration and endemism are Malaysia, Sumatra and Australia, respectively.

Second largest reef

Most of the endemic species in the Philippines are found in the Verde Island Passage between Mindoro and Luzon.

The Philippines also has the second largest reef in the world, the 34-km Apo Reef located 24 km west of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, and 33 km northeast of the Calamian Group of Islands in northern Palawan, according to Gozun.

The status and management of the country's coastal and marine resources were presented to government officials, environmental organizations and the media during the national forum on sustainable development of coastal and marine resources yesterday.

World Ocean Day

The Philippines joins the celebration of World Ocean Day today with a reiteration of the Philippines' commitment to the Putrajaya Declaration forging an Integrated Coastal Management among Southeast Asian countries.

"In this part of the world, particularly, the seas of East Asia provide a significant portion of the region's economic base, with a larger portion of the economic activities in the coastal cities," Nileema Noble, United Nations Development Program resident representative, said in a speech in the same forum.

About 10 million fisherfolk and 50 million people are dependent on the region's seas for their livelihood, Noble said.

Using data from the PEM 2005, Gozun said that the Philippines' 26,000 sq km of coral reefs contribute $1.064 billion annually to the Philippine economy through direct and indirect services such as fisheries and tourism.

"When your area is being promoted as a tourism site, you have no alternative but to protect it, or you can kiss your investments goodbye," Gozun said, addressing the local officials at the forum.

Most threatened

She said that while the Philippines was the center of marine biodiversity, it also has the region's most threatened coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves.

Ninety-eight percent of the country's reefs are threatened while 70 percent of mangroves have been lost or converted to fish ponds in the past 70 years.

"Compared to other countries with similar coastal resources, the Philippines appears to be using its coastal resources in a very inefficient manner," Gozun said.

The country has 64 provinces and 832 municipalities along its 36,289-km coastline.

Correction

IN THE JUNE 7 ISSUE, the caption of a photo accompanying a Page A2 story—"Airport official shot dead by aviation cop at Naia"—misspelled the surname of the official killed. The official who was shot dead was Eduardo Tiotioen—not Tiotien.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Albay, Sorsogon govs seek Lafayette restart

THE GOVERNORS OF ALBAY AND SORSOgon issued a joint statement yesterday calling on the government to allow the resumption of operations of the Lafayette polymetallic project in Rapu-Rapu after its remedial measures have passed all tests.

Governors Fernando Gonzalez of Albay and Raul Lee of Sorsogon said in the joint statement that the region's biggest investor deserves no less since it had followed the rules and due process and met all conditions the government had imposed.

They said the company spent P400 million for the required remedial measures, knowing that the rules would entitle it to a test run once it is ready.

Otherwise, they said investors would think the rules are not being followed and their investments will not have the full protection of the law.

Lee said that Sorsogon must move on and has suffered enough from the fish scare that was started by anti-mining groups to stop the project. The Rapu-Rapu fact-finding commission, accused by Lee as biased antimining, recently recommended the closure of the Lafayette operations in Rapu-Rapu and the amendment of the Mining Act, but President Macapagal-Arroyo said mining will continue in the country.

The issue is no longer the spills at Lafayette but rather whether the new management is true to its word to fully comply with all the conditions and rules for its resumption of operations, the two governors said.

"That the company has been asking to be tested under the full monitoring of all parties, including those opposed to it, speaks of an unprecedented transparency we have never seen before. And to think that all it is asking for is for due process to be followed," they said.

The joint statement was issued following expressions of support for the project by private entities and local government units, including the Sangguniang Bayan of Rapu Rapu which asked that Lafayette be given a second chance to conduct responsible mining.

Gonzalez and Lee expressed confidence that Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes will uphold the rule of law and act fairly in his final decision.

PNP, FBI working on crime database

POLICE ARE TO SET UP A FINGERPRINT database with the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation as part of joint efforts against terrorism, officials said yesterday.

Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao discussed the project with FBI deputy director John Pistole during a visit to Washington last week, a police statement said.

Pistole offered the FBI's technical assistance in setting up a fingerprint database that both agencies could use, the statement said.

The two officials also discussed improved cooperation in "training, information sharing and intelligence exchange regarding transnational terrorist and criminal organizations," it added.

The Philippines has been a key ally in the US-led "war on terror" and US troops have been deployed here to train local troops to hunt down Muslim militants linked to the Al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah networks. *AFP*

David-Link "Your No.1 Choice in Office Automation Machines" KITANO

BUNDY CLOCKS • Two-color printing • Programmable Melody • Auto-Column Shifting
CHECK WRITERS • 14-Digit with calculator • 16 Currencies • Embossed printing
TIME-STAMPING MACHINE • Prints Company initials • Up to 6 Digits Numbering • Adjustable Printing Position
BILL COUNTERS • Counterfeit Detector • Auto-Start/Stop • With External Display
LAMINATORS • Adjustable Temperature • Forward & Reverse Control • 4 Heavy Duty Rubber Rollers
WIRE & PLASTIC BINDERS • Up to 500 sheets binding capacity • Up to 25 sheets punching capacity • Up to 24 holes
PAPER SHREDDERS • Silent Operation • Heavy Duty • Auto-Reverse on Paper Jam
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE • 120 copies per minute • Electric & Manual Operation • Adjustable Printing Position
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHERS • Can punch up to 500 sheets • Selectable punching width

CALL NOW! 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432 E-mail: davidlink_mla@yahoo.com Website: www.niboworld.com.sg

idac AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:2432610,2414731
Available@MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821

everything is just a few steps away
Rada Regency
Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
24-storey commercial and residential condominium
own a unit for as low as
P12,788/mo.
CITYLAND Leading Condominium Developer Presidential Awardee 2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
812-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894 www.cityland.net

the electronics boutique
Father's DAY Special
Robinsons Galleria
1st Level East Wing (near Watsons)
Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City
Tel. 636-0206 • 636-5077
Market! Market!
4th Level, Market! Market!
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
Tel. 886-7939 • 886-7949
Park Square
Ground Floor, Park Square 1
Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel. 816-2440 • 816-4423
Alabang Town Center
3rd Level New Wing
Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City
Tel. 772-3250 • 772-3251
Cut this Ad Coupon and avail
P500.00 OFF
on all featured items!
Promo period: May 25 to June 20, 2006
Per DTI Permit No. 1436 Series of 2006
IPod Nano • 2GB • MP3 Player Price: P11,500
Nippon TV Tunner • 7" Potable TV Tunner • AC/DC Power • Colored Screen Price: P8,450
Thomson Clock Radio • AM/FM Clock Radio • with CD Player • Dual Alarm Price: P2,495
Coby CD Player • AM/FM Radio • CD Player Price: P1,495
Shiro Speakers • Line-In/Line-Out • Stereo Sound Price: P1,700
Coby 7" TFDVD • DVD Player • Colored Monitor Price: P9,950
Shinco DVD Player • CD/VCD/DVD/MPEG4 Price: P2,995
MP3 Transmitter • FM Frequency Price: P995
Kingston Data Traveler • USB • 128MB Price: P995
V-Tech Cordless Phone With Answering Machine • Cordless Phone • Answering Machine Price: P1,995
GE Dect Cordless Phone • Long Range • Better Audio Quality Price: P2,495
INNOCARE Shaver • Waterproof Shaver Price: P1,199

TheraBreath Kit System
A sure cure to Bad Breath. Therabreath™ removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition
Money Back Guarantee. We refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment
Call free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2466 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717

ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Industrial Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaner
Now Only P39,500
Yes Wet & Dry
Agua Water Filtration
Lava Extractor/Shampooer
Industrial 30x Wet & Dry w/ Blower
P3,500
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
Heavy-duty High Pressure Washer
Elite
X-Pro
WH2111
WH-3517E Engine Driven
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up to 24 Mos
Exclusively Distributed by CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
O.C. 646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

diplomat SAFE LTD
Your best solution for your prized possession against fire and theft.
Imagine what would happen if your home or business were suddenly wiped out by fire. Insurance could replace most of your furnishings, but important documents like deeds, wills contracts, land titles and certificates would be lost.
There is only one effective way to protect your valuables against fire and theft and that is to keep them in a SAFE...DIPLOMAT SAFE.
DIPLOMAT SAFE is fire-tested and certified P mark by SP (Swedish National Test and Reseach Institute), UL (USA), JIS (Japan), KS (Korea) and GHOST (Russia)
Enjoy Security with DIPLOMAT SAFE
CS001
A125
A530
FIRE RESISTANCE: 1,010°C for 120 minutes
Distributed by: ASTECH PENGSON
www.astech-pengson.com
MANILA (02) 634 8351 to 59
CEBU (032) 344-1185
DAVAO (082) 221-0585

SuperFerry
NEW SAILING SCHEDULES
FROM MANILA

TO	DEPARTURE FROM SOUTH HARBOR			ARRIVAL - DESTINATION		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	Mon	6:15 PM	SF01	Tue	1:30 PM	Bredco
	Tue	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Wed	12:30 PM	Bredco
	Wed	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Thu	3:00 AM	Bredco
	Thu	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Fri	8:00 PM	Bredco
	Sun	11:45 AM	SF2/5/9	Mon	9:30 AM	Bredco
CAGAYAN DE ORO	Mon	9:15 PM	SF15/16	Wed	6:00 AM	Puntod
	Tue	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Thu	1:00 PM	Puntod
	Wed	5:15 PM	SF12	Fri	6:00 AM	Puntod
	Thu	8:15 PM	SF17/18	Sat	5:00 AM	Puntod
	Sun	8:45 AM	SF12	Mon	5:30 PM	Puntod
CEBU	Mon	9:15 PM	SF15/16	Tue	6:30 PM	CIP
	Wed	5:15 PM	SF12	Thu	4:30 PM	CIP
	Thu	8:15 PM	SF17/18	Fri	6:00 PM	CIP
	Sat	9:15 AM	SF17/18	Sun	6:30 AM	CIP
	Sun	8:45 AM	SF12	Mon	6:00 AM	CIP
CORON	Fri	7:15 PM	SF01	Sat	6:30 AM	Coron
COTABATO	Fri	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Sun	7:00 AM	Polloc
DUMAGUETE	Mon	11:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Wed	10:00 AM	Dgte
	Fri	11:45 PM	SF2/5/9	Sun	8:00 AM	Dgte
DIPOLOG	Mon	11:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Wed	5:00 PM	Dip
CATICLAN	Mon	2:45 PM	OLOM	Tue	6:00 AM	MPH
	Wed	1:45 PM	OLOM	Thu	6:30 AM	MPH
	Sat	2:15 PM	OLOM	Sun	5:30 AM	MPH
DAVAO	Mon	2:15 PM	SF17/18	Wed	5:30 PM	Sasa
	Wed	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Fri	7:30 PM	Sasa
	Sat	9:15 AM	SF17/18	Mon	7:00 PM	Sasa
GENSAN	Mon	2:15 PM	SF17/18	Wed	7:30 AM	Makar
	Wed	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Fri	10:00AM	Makar
	Sat	9:15 AM	SF17/18	Mon	9:30 AM	Makar
ILIGAN	Thu	8:15 PM	SF17/18	Sat	11:00 AM	Ili
	Sun	11:45 AM	SF2/5/9	Tue	4:00 AM	Ili
ILOILO	Tue	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Wed	7:00 PM	SNPED
	Wed	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Thu	9:00 AM	SNPED
	Thu	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Fri	1:30 PM	SNPED
	Fri	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Sat	4:00 AM	SNPED
NASIPIT	Mon	6:15 PM	SF01	Wed	10:00 AM	Nas
	Fri	11:45 PM	SF2/5/9	Sun	6:00 PM	Nas
OZAMIS	Thu	3:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Sat	1:30 PM	Oza
	Sun	11:45 AM	SF2/5/9	Tue	9:00 AM	Oza
PUERTO PRINCESA	Fri	7:15 PM	SF01	Sat	6:30 PM	PPS
ROXAS	Mon	2:45 PM	OLOM	Tue	11:30 AM	Culasi
	Wed	1:45 PM	OLOM	Thu	11:59 AM	Culasi
	Sat	2:15 PM	OLOM	Sun	11:00 AM	Culasi
SURIGAO	Mon	6:15 PM	SF01	Wed	4:30 AM	Sur
TAGBILARAN	Mon	11:15 PM	SF2/5/9	Wed	3:30 AM	Tagbi
	Fri	11:45 PM	SF2/5/9	Sun	3:00 AM	Tagbi
ZAMBOANGA	Mon	2:15 PM	SF17/18	Tue	5:30 PM	Zambo
	Fri	8:45 AM	SF15/16	Sat	7:00 PM	Zambo

Mega-Tipid discounts available for all trips!
HOTLINE: (02) 528-7000 • TEXT HOTLINE: 0918-9942421 • www.SuperFerry.com.ph

NOTICE AND WARNING

The public is hereby informed that **GOLDEN ELECTRICAL AND MACHINERY CORP.**, with business address at No. 1270 C.M. Recto Ave., Manila and tel. nos. 244-6173 and 244-8182, is the registered owner of **MARUNAKA** trademark use on **bush** and **grass cutters**, lawnmowers and other agricultural products and implements per Certificate of Registration No. **42005000478** issued by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

MARUNAKA

Only **MARUNAKA** Bush Cutters, agricultural products and implements coming from **GOLDEN ELECTRICAL AND MACHINERY CORP.** are **GENUINE.**

Only **Genuine MARUNAKA** bush cutters have the following characteristics among others,
- serial numbers and **model F-5V** printed on the bush cutter shaft and carton box.
- serial numbers of TD-40 engines printed on the engine recoil starter and carton box.
- **MARUNAKA** printed on the bush cutter shaft and carton box.
- guaranteed quality.

Let this be a **WARNING** that **GOLDEN ELECTRICAL AND MACHINERY CORP.** will not hesitate to file **CRIMINAL** and **CIVIL ACTIONS** against any unscrupulous individuals or entities found MANUFACTURING, IMPORTING, DISTRIBUTING or SELLING counterfeit **MARUNAKA** bush cutters with fake **TD-40 engines.**

DISTOR AND ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE
No. 21 Scout Limbaga St., Diliman, Quezon City

JUNGLE FIGHTERS
Shafts of sunlight pierces the thick jungle of Basilan into an encampment of Army Scout Rangers pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits. This photo which came out in the INQUIRER in 2002 by then PDI photographer Dennis Sabangan, won the human interest category and the photo of the year award in the photo competition dubbed "Lente: Memoirs of Heroes, A Collection of Heroic Moments Seized in Timeless Frames." The competition was held by the Defense Press Corps of the Philippines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

House committee OKs bill vs torture

By Michael Lim Ubac

ALTHOUGH LONG OVERDUE, THE HOUSE JUSTICE committee yesterday approved a bill that prohibits the torture and maltreatment of people in the custody of the military, police or other authorities and penalizes not only the tormentors but their superiors as well.

House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo, principal author of the bill, said that while the Philippines is a signatory to international conventions on human rights and the treatment of prisoners, the country has as yet no law outlawing torture. The Constitution, however, explicitly bans torture

"Torture is not yet a crime in the Philippines, so victims can only sue for civil damages against their tormentors," the party-list legislator, himself a torture victim during nine years of detention under the Marcos regime, told the INQUIRER.

Ocampo said it is clear in the proposed Anti-Torture Act of 2006 that no person under investigation or held by any person in authority should be "subjected to physical harm, force, violence, threat or intimidation or any act that impairs his/her will."

"The bill is, in fact, long overdue considering the 20 years that have lapsed since the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship which applied torture on dissidents, opponents and on the entire republic," Ocampo said.

"The House should immediately approve the bill in plenary and transmit it to the Senate for its consideration," he added. "Congress should unite with the people in saying: Never again to torture!"

Under the bill, heads of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies would be held liable as accessories "for any act or omission or negligence that may have led to the commission of torture by their subordinates."

The bill prohibits secret detention places, holding people incommunicado or in solitary confinement or other similar forms of detention where torture may be carried out with impunity.

Any person who participates in torture, or who is present during its infliction, is liable as a principal; so is any superior military, police or law enforcement officer or senior government official who issues such an order.

The penalties provided range from six months in prison to life.

The victims of torture have the right to claim compensation of not less than P10,000, as provided for by Republic Act 7309, which provides compensation to people wrongly convicted of crimes. Ocampo said his bill would amend this law by providing torture as one of the grounds for seeking compensation.

The bill lists numerous acts of torture, many of which, according to Ocampo, were used against dissidents and activists under the Marcos dictatorship and provides for physical and psychological examination of persons arrested, detained or under custodial investigation.

The prohibited acts include:

- Beatings, head bangings, punching, kicking, striking with truncheons, rifle butts and jumping on the stomach;
- Food deprivation or forcible feeding with spoiled food, animal or human excreta;
- Electric shocks;
- Burning by cigarets, heated rods, oil and acid;
- Rubbing of pepper or chemicals on mucous membranes or wounds;
- Submersion of the head in water or water polluted with excrement, urine, vomit and or blood until the brink of suffocation;
- Tying or forcing stressful bodily positions;
- Rape and sexual abuse, including the insertion of foreign bodies into the sex organs or rectum or electrical torture of the genitals;
- Mutilation;
- Dental torture or the forced extraction of the teeth;
- Harmful exposure to the elements such as sunlight and extreme cold;
- Placing plastic bags and other materials around the head to the point of asphyxiation;
- Use of psychoactive drugs to change the perception, memory, alertness or will of a person, and the use of drugs to induce extreme pain or certain symptoms of disease.

RP poverty level down; Muslims are top gainers

EXTREME POVERTY LEVELS IN THE PHILIPPINES have declined slightly to about 30 percent of the population, with minority Muslims improving their lot significantly, the government said yesterday.

"In terms of population, 30 out of 100 Filipinos in 2003 had income short of the minimum cost of satisfying the basic requirements, an improvement from 2000 (when) 33 out of 100 Filipinos (were) ... below the poverty threshold," the National Statistical Coordination Board said.

That improvement took 1.6 million Filipinos out of poverty.

The government agency puts the per capita poverty threshold at P35.93 a day in income, enough to buy about 1.5 kilograms of rice, the staple cereal.

The World Bank estimates that 40 percent of Filipinos live on two dollars (P105) a day or less.

Three predominantly Muslim provinces in the south—Sulu, Lanao del Sur and Tawi-Tawi—hauled themselves off the 2000 list of the 10 poorest, with double-digit declines in the incidence of poverty, the government agency said in a statement.

These areas, which form part of a Muslim self-rule area called the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, have benefited from large-scale government and international aid since the signing of a peace treaty between the government and separatist rebels in 1996.

The government is observing a three year-old ceasefire with another Muslim separatist group in the area and hopes to sign a wider political settlement later this year.

However, the government survey also found that six other provinces in the south, many of them with substantial Muslim populations, are now among the 10 poorest provinces. *AFP*

Killings meant to drive them underground, say militants

By Luige A. del Puerto

MILITANTS SEE IN THE RECENT spate of killings of their colleagues a "bloody trap" designed to drive them underground and take up arms against the government, according to the Bayan Muna party-list group.

"Our members and allies are very agitated with the killings. The government is provoking and pushing us against the wall," said Bayan deputy secretary general Robert de Castro.

"[This is] a dangerous and bloody trap that aims to push our members to take up arms and thereby justify the administration's aim to illegalize Bayan Muna and declare an all-out, shoot-to-kill order against our leaders and members," he said.

Majority of the militants that have been killed come from the party-list group which with its allied organizations have six representatives in Congress and together constitute the most vocal critics of the Arroyo administration.

In the latest incident in Eastern Samar, senior police officials yesterday said the two men shot dead in the province last weekend were not activists.

There were no reports from the ground stating that David Costuna, 48, or Arcadio Macale, 60, were affiliated with a left-leaning organization, said police Director General Arturo Lomibao who flew to Samar to meet with the victim's relatives.

Costuna was a barangay chair and Macale was a local agrarian reform officer. The two were the 19th and 20th militants murdered in various parts of the country in the past two months.

But Lomibao said the two were not leftist activists.

"The wife of the barangay chair [Costuna] disputed the claim of a news report that her husband was a militant or a leftist. In fact, she said he was a strong supporter of Cha-cha (Charter change)," Lomibao said.

Local officials also described Costuna as an "active and aggressive fighter of criminals, especially drug (peddlers)," he said.

The Philippine National Police earlier formed Task Force Usig to investigate the killings of activists, journalists, politicians and government employees.

Lomibao went to Eastern Samar with Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., the task force chief, and Director Jesus Versoza, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Militants have scheduled a series of protest rallies to denounce the killings, starting with an indignation rally and march, mostly by farmers, to Mendiola on Friday.

Some 40 Bayan Muna leaders met at the University of the Philippines in Diliman over the weekend to assess the party situation and make plans on how to counter the attacks.

De Castro said that while "taking up arms to defend ourselves against armed attack [was] just," the group would not bite the supposed trap being set up by the administration.

In another case in Lingayen, Pangasinan, the provincial police on Tuesday filed murder and frustrated murder charges against the suspect in the killing of a Bagong Alyansang Makabayan leader but had to release him again on the advice of a prosecutor.

Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, Pangasinan police director, said the police had to release Joel Flores, 28, the suspect in the slaying of Jose Doton, secretary general of Bayan-Pangasinan, because the prosecutor had advised them that Flores was arrested without a warrant.

Priest fears rightist witchhunt

LUCENA CITY—A CATHOLIC priest and advocate for the protection of the Agta tribe in Sierra Madre said he has been the target of an anti-communist witchhunt which his supporters fear could be a prelude to his assassination.

Fr. Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in Infanta, said propaganda materials labeling him a communist have been circulating in the towns of Infanta and General Nakar.

"The propaganda pictures me as a 'devil wearing a habit' who is spreading the 'ideology of communism'," Montallana said in a phone interview.

He said his detractors have also accused him of receiving P1 billion in relief funds from The Netherlands intended for the Agta tribe and of using the funds to bankroll the communist rebellion.

Montallana said the propaganda materials were signed by the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD), an ultra-rightist group that allegedly serves as an anti-communist propagandist for the military.

Ramcy Astoveza, one of the Agta tribal chieftains, fears that the circulation of the leaflets could ultimately lead to Montallana's assassination.

"But the whole tribe will protect him. He's a good servant of God. All contents of the leaflets are lies and deception," Astoveza said in a text message.

He accused the NAD of exploiting the rift between tribal factions to pursue its objectives.

"Sad to admit, the tribe has been factionalized. There are some who want to destroy the image of the good priest," Astoveza said.

Montallana noted that the paper and the type of print used in the propaganda materials were the same as those of anti-communist materials released by NAD at a April 29 village assembly in Barangay Magsikap in General Nakar in which the military accused the New People's Army of killing Bayan Muna member Marilou Sanchez and her brother Virgilio Rubio.

"Sotero Llamas who left the NPA was killed recently. Two other people were also killed in Samar. I know that with the propaganda against me, I could be next," Montallana said.

Montallana vowed to continue his mission with the Agta tribe and his environmental advocacy.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

World Class Learning at its most Personal Level

Other Programs Available:

PERSONALIZED CLASSROOM LEARNING PROGRAM (PCLP) *
For students who will excel in a very small class size

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM *
Full credited academic course for students with minimal English proficiency

A small class size leads to a student-teacher interaction that's more personalized, fosters greater discipline and respect, and encourages academic excellence.

World class academic programs in Math, Science, English, Social Sciences, and Communications are patterned after curricula in Singapore and the US.

Regular competency tests prepare students for higher learning in top local and foreign academic institutions.

Reedley International School
A Singapore-American Co-ed School

JOSOL Bldg., E. Rodriguez Ave.
Libis, Quezon City
Telephone: 631-2262 to 69
E-mail: ris@reedleyschool.com |www.reedleyschool.com

NEW LOCATION

* offers full academic credits covering all major subjects

SCHOOL LEVELS: Grade School: 1-7 | High School: 1-4

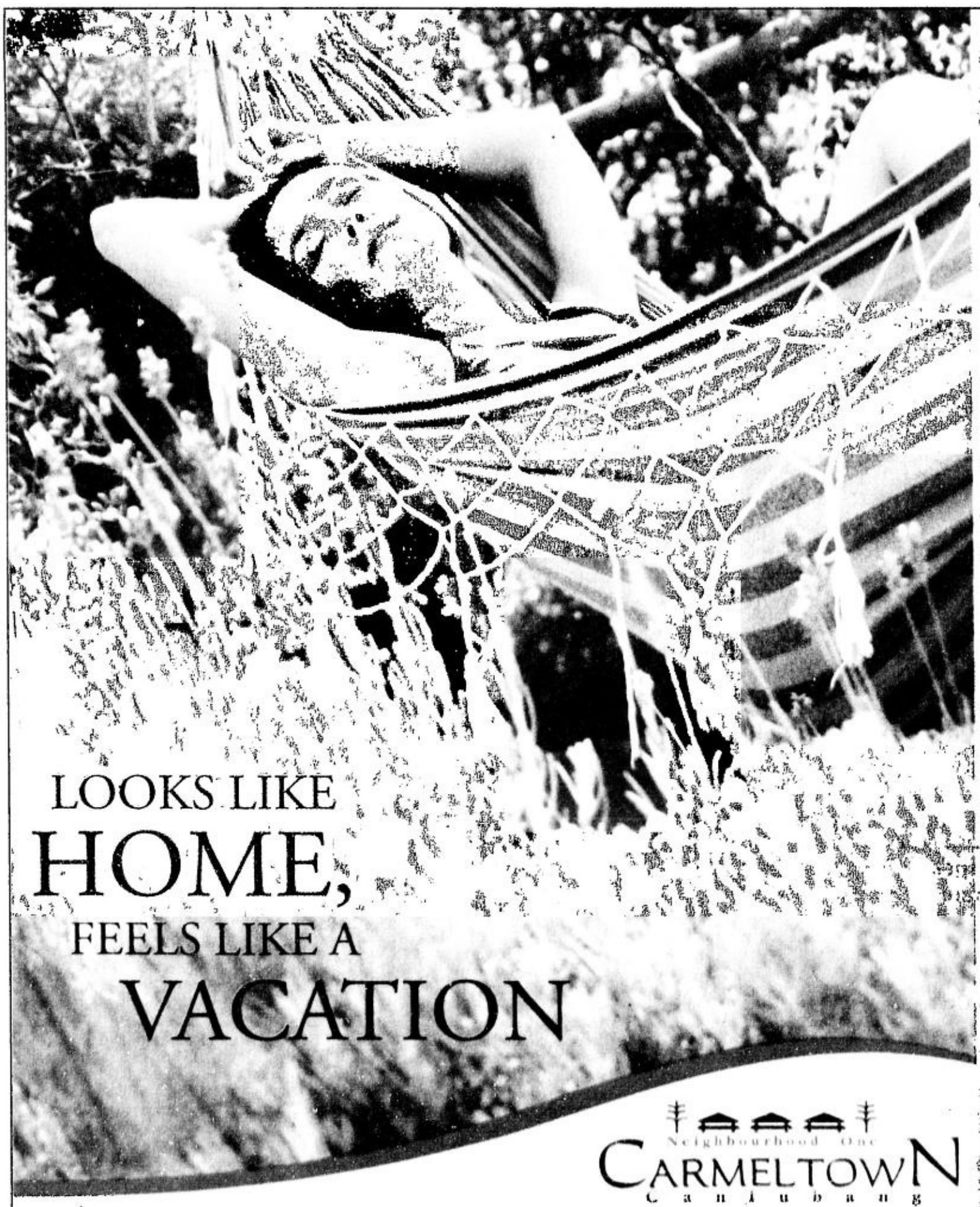
BASTAHUBOX i-MOLDEX mo! MOLDEX

MORE CHANCES TO WIN!!!
20 Bi-Monthly Draws
with 60 winners

Raffle Promo 2

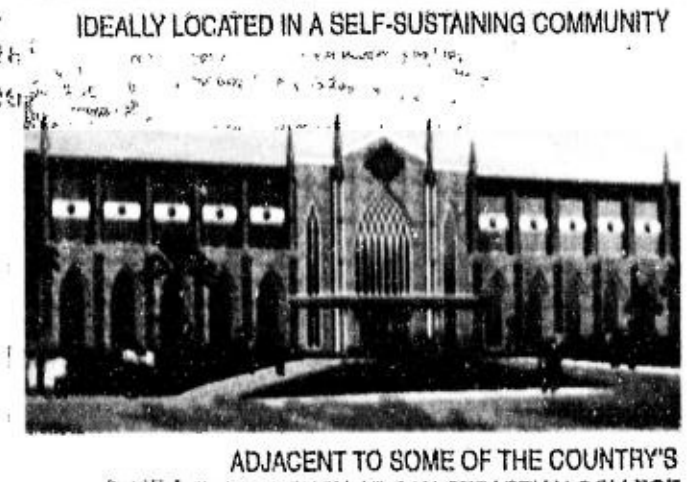
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0626, Series of 2006

See Poster and Flyers for more details or visit our website www.moldex.com.ph
For more inquiries, dial our Hotline No.: 373-1000 / 0918-8028888



EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO THE MILLS COUNTRY CLUB

IDEALLY LOCATED IN A SELF-SUSTAINING COMMUNITY



ADJACENT TO SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST SCHOOLS SUCH AS SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE AND NYK MARITIME ACADEMY

Neighbourhood One
CARMELTOWN
Canlubang

CARMELRAY TOWN CORPORATION
ORCHARD PROPERTY MARKETING CORPORATION
S.J.A. LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT INC.

CALL 635-4946 NOW!

TAKE SILANGAN EXIT | THE SITE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 180

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer opl name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
• Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Fooling the people

EDITORIAL

POLITICS, WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES, IS THE art of the possible. It may require the management of image and illusion, but ultimately it is based on the actual, on what both *barong*-clad officials and uniformed government workers call reality "on the ground." Politics is not, as some government officials seem to think, the art of substituting illusion for reality.

Consider the Philippine National Police, and how it defines a solved crime. Contrary to reason or experience, it insists a crime is solved when a case is filed against a suspect. Never mind if the case is flimsy or haphazardly put together, built on extracted, easily recantable testimony; never mind if other suspects are still at large. The mere filing—a media opportunity, an image management event—means the case is solved.

To be sure, setting definitions is a function of leadership. The leader of a business enterprise may define ISO certification as a corporate goal; the dean of a law school may aim for a 100-percent passing rate for graduates who take the bar; the publisher of a website may shoot for a daily readership of a certain number of page views. It is up to the leadership to define the goals, but the goals must be real; that is to say, based on reality on the ground. The trouble with the PNP definition of a crime solved is that it bears no relationship to the real job of the police: Filing away a crime as solved does not mean the peace and order situation has actually improved.

This pattern of defining *away* one's responsibilities is not limited to the PNP, of course, or to the current administration. To take just one of many possible examples, ex-Ombudsman Aniano Desierto (appointed by President Fidel Ramos) used to define his main responsibility as the country's top graft-buster in terms of the number of cases filed, not the number of officials actually convicted. Is it any wonder that his conviction rate was in the appallingly low single digits?

But President Macapagal-Arroyo's public humiliation of acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo last week, over the extent of the classroom shortage in the country's public school system, suggests that the Arroyo administration is playing the redefinition game at a whole new level.

Consider another example: last week's economic good news. The country's gross domestic product grew by 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the year—much faster than the year-ago figure of 4.2 percent, and right on target (5 to 5.5 percent) as far as the Arroyo administration is concerned.

It looks like the economy is on track to meet the administration's full-year GDP growth target of 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

Except that the administration is actually using revised targets; that is to say, goals have been revised downwards. As Albay Rep. Joey Salceda pointed out last week, in 2004 the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan envisioned a GDP growth rate of anywhere from 6.3 to 7.3 percent for 2006.

So the country's economic performance is on track only because the targets have been lowered.

"Your numbers suggest that you are already giving up" on the development plan, Salceda told Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri. Salceda is actually an administration ally, who advises the President on economic concerns. But his remarks paint an unflattering picture of the administration's decision-making process.

Not only messages, but even the numbers behind them, can be massaged.

To be sure, every administration revises economic targets. When more information is available, or in the wake of a paradigm-shifting crisis like the Asian financial emergency of 1997, or when earlier planning assumptions have been outdated, an administration will find it necessary to change the targets. But the country's first economist-president knows that the Philippine development plan is based on key assumptions, especially about poverty reduction. Lowering the growth rates, while keeping the same assumptions about poverty (to cite only one instance), can only mean fewer people lifted out of the poverty line by 2010.

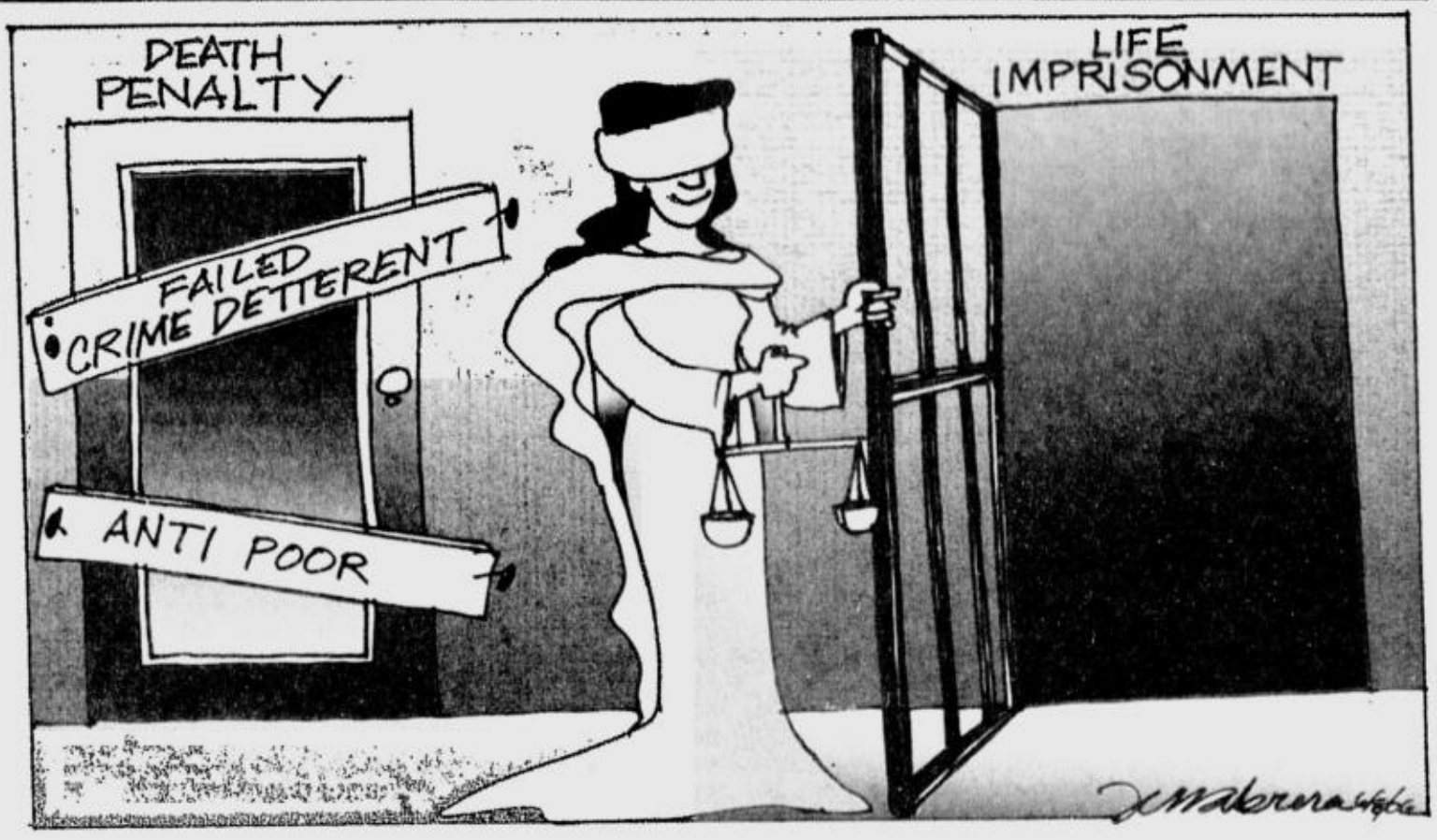
The new official growth targets are achievable (that's the illusion part). They won't help us meet the goals of the Philippine development plan (that's the reality).

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



'Bottled pap'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DEFENSE SECRETARY AVELINO CRUZ JR. could not have picked a worse audience than the 5th Asia Security Summit in Singapore. In that annual meeting, convened by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, he uncorked a bottled speech. "Within the next six to 10 years," the government could end the festering 38-year-old communist insurgency here, he claimed. However, it would need to increase spending on "national security and social infrastructure."

Really? If Secretary Cruz's listeners were local *trapos*, there'd be no problem. Many wouldn't even gag. Unfortunately, defense ministers, military officials and scholars from 20 countries were his audience. They included: Singapore Defense Minister Teo Chee Hean, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

Since 2002, the IISS has been gathering policy makers and experts to take a hard look at security issues. Their discussions would range from protecting the vital Malacca Straits, terrorism, US engagement in Asia's security architecture, East Timor instability to establishing a regional security community.

Before such a group, you ladle pap at your peril. And its members, of course, know the communist rebellion here isn't about to crumble.

Insurgency persists, despite major setbacks, notes Philippine Human Development Report 2005. The setbacks include: deadly internal pogroms, being orphaned by People Power, the 1992 schisms, communism's collapse, failure to secure international recognition—plus the inevitable aging of its commissars.

Armed Forces politics ironically shunted proficient military commanders to combat assignments. "It was a war of battalions ... At no time did the New People's Army achieve a concentration of strength such that the AFP could not appear at will .... Even in NPA strongholds, the CPP could not develop a viable societal alternative to existing structures.

"Any of these (setbacks) would have irremediably shattered a weaker movement," PHDR points out. But social injustices remain embedded. And these give an otherwise faltering insurgency resiliency. "Protracted people's war and counter-insurgency war seem destined to go on for the foreseeable future."

"Massive abject poverty and economic inequity continue ... and on the political side, there is revulsion against elite politics," the UN-supported report adds. "Beyond the regime change in 1986 ... 'local bosses' or '*caciques*'" (persist), especially in rural areas. In these enclaves, the martial law regime has not ended: despotic local elites—whether inside or outside the state apparatus—continue to rule ruthlessly."

A recent study drew up a vulnerability index of 75 provinces, PHDR notes. It pinpointed six factors that stoke insurgency: (1) endemic poverty, (2) educational deprivation, (3) ill health, (4) social injustice, (5) socio-economic deprivation and (6) geographic isolation. Haven't we been here before?

The government's National Peace and Development Plan of 2000, in fact, depicts insurgency as a tree whose "taproot" is the maldistribution of the fruits of the land. Maldistribution concentrates wealth, especially land ownership, in the hands of a few.

Despite shaky statistics and paper ARCs (agrarian reform communities), the government's land redistribution has been "modest but significant." Most of the CPP's revolutionary land reforms, however, were wiped out after the AFP tilted the military balance.

Insurgency's persistence, despite government agrarian reform gains, is anchored to the "NPA's function as a 'social police' in the countryside where the government has no presence," the report asserts. "The insurgency survives because it is an alternative political movement supported by force."

In his perceptive background paper for PHDR 2005, Soliman Santos notes other nuances in the insurgency—nuances that explain insurgency's setbacks as well as staying power.

The Philippine case is part insurgency where communist intellectuals exert effort to whip up an armed revolution. But it's also part rebellion where the foot soldiers are estranged peasants committed to armed struggle as the means to obtain a degree of social justice.

The CPP's uprising is "more (of) a political revolution to seize political power than ... a social revolution to solve certain social grievances .... This leads to "tension between (the) goals of the leadership."

Unlike other communist parties in Asia, the CPP gives the legal struggle in urban areas priority—while giving lip service to the "primacy of armed struggle in rural areas."

The NPA hasn't budged beyond small guerrilla actions despite an increase in tactical attacks. "In actual practice, the political struggle has been given more attention ... than armed struggle." Legal methods—fronts, demos, suited legislators with access to pork barrel, over splayed-footed rural guerrillas—gave the movement traction.

"This is controversial ... because there are many potential recruits, mostly in rural areas. For many of them, there is no other alternative to survive economic deprivation."

The rebellion seeks to topple the government and install a "dictatorship of the proletariat," which has long been discarded elsewhere. Spurning claims to a rival state, the government proclaims democratic governance which is systematically plundered by an avaricious elite whose "reforms" consist of bickering who'll be the next President.

People should be empowered to say "where they want this war to go," PHDR says. This would require a breakthrough in political reforms—far more than the increased budget that Secretary Cruz will settle for.

Tongue-tied

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OVER THE PAST WEEKS, THE DEBATE ON whether schools are better off teaching in English or Filipino (or any of the local languages) has arisen again. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, of course, has been going around arguing for English. That in fact was what she was doing as guest speaker of Cavite State University when Theresa Pangilinan heckled her in Filipino, shouting among others, "*Patalsikin si Gloria.*" I don't know that Pangilinan was arguing for Filipino, but she has at least proven among many other things that Filipino is a most effective language for communication. Her point certainly was not lost on GMA who has gone on to file a case against her for God—(or GMA)—knows-what.

I'd just like to add a few perspectives to show the complexity of the problem.

First off, the argument that reading and literacy have declined in this country as a result of falling English-language skills simply doesn't hold water. Everywhere in the world reading has declined as a result of stiff competition from other forms of media. TV and the PC in particular have pushed it back to the sea, though between the two, I figure PC has done the lesser harm being more interactive than TV. I personally think the PC itself can encourage rather than detract from reading once it goes past its status of supplying pithy "catalogue-type" information through the Internet. Who says you can't read books from the PC?

As to poor English affecting literacy, that's hogwash. My favorite example does not come from education, it comes from journalism, and specifically from my own personal experience. As I've learned from attending media forums abroad, we're the most illiterate among Asian countries in reading newspapers. At least to go by their circulation. Elsewhere in Asia, the circulations of newspapers run into millions. In this country, well, the circulation of all our broadsheets doesn't come up to a million.

The reason for this is simply language. In the other Asian countries, the mass-circulation newspapers are in the local languages and are read quite literally by the masses. My Southeast Asian friends were bowled over when I answered their question about how big the biggest circulation newspaper in this country was, with "less than 300,000." In their countries, that is the circulation of fringe publications. The newspapers in their countries that do have a very small circulation are the ones in English, which cater only to an expatriate audience. As in many other things, we're the odd man out in this part of the world, our main newspapers, or broadsheets, being in English rather than in Filipino.

Theoretically, of course, the natural solution would be to shift to Filipino. But here's the part that makes the problem thorny. We're also the odd-man out of Asia in yet another respect, which is that while most of us speak Filipino, or can understand it, most of us as well read in English. Or at least the educated class does. That accounts for the phenomenon of TV programs, particularly news and talk shows, having converted nearly exclusively into Filipino and newspapers still using mainly English. Only the late night TV news is now in English, prime time is Filipino. Even provincial news often broadcasts in Filipino rather than in the local languages.

There have been several attempts in the past to put out broadsheets in Filipino but none of them has succeeded. Most Filipinos prefer to read them in English. Tabloids and entertainment publications are quite another matter entirely—they have commanded a fair share of audiences. But I'll get to that later.

The issue, it seems to me, resolves itself into this: Which is easier to do—teach Filipinos to read and write in Filipino or teach Filipinos to speak English, making it the language of ordinary discourse? I grant the first isn't easy, but the second is next to impossible. Creating an entire generation of English-speaking Filipinos even with the most robust or frenetic attempts to teach English in schools can't do that. And it would be the tail wagging the dog: it would be using education to teach people a language rather than using language, whichever is the most used, to educate a people.

The first choice in fact is not as hopeless as it seems, however arduous the climb might seem at this point. The problem is not really that most Filipinos do not read in Filipino but that most Filipinos do not read "serious stuff" in Filipino. Filipino is associated with tabloid and entertainment. It does get read—but in that form. One remarkable statistic I've learned is that during the heyday of the local romantic novels, when they replaced Mills and Boone in bookstore shelves, the novels written in Filipino outnumbered the ones written in English by six to one. The ones written in English at most had a circulation of 5,000, the ones in Filipino 30,000.

None of this is to say we shouldn't try to learn English with a passion. All this is to say we can—and should—make English a second language in this country, not the first one. The notion that we won't progress if we don't speak English like a native is nuts. Thais don't, and they're already a dragon, while GMA is still dreaming vainly of turning this country into an Enchanted Kingdom. The notion, moreover, that if we don't speak English fluently we won't be able to find work, particularly abroad, is even more nuts. It limits the national ambition to finding work and not creating it.

It's the difference between the Pinoy graduate who asks his fellow graduate what kind of work he has found, and the Chinoy graduate who asks his fellow graduate what kind of business he has put up. People who think of putting up businesses do not worry what language they speak.

Their employees are busy trying to learn theirs.

Great 'pabaon' for GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT ABOUT 3 P.M. LAST TUESDAY, SEN. JOKER Arroyo, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, announced to the media that the Senate had passed the bill abolishing the death penalty. Arroyo's announcement allowed the Senate media to rib their counterparts in the House of Representatives for being *kulelat*, for once. Word on this must have gotten to House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles for he soon announced that the House would pass its own version of the bill before the evening was over.

I teased Nograles about that and he stressed that the Senate had to listen to only 16 senators, whereas the House has 236 members, of whom about 60 stood up to explain their stand on the bill, which was defended on the floor by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman. In the end, 119 House members voted for the abolition of the death penalty, 20 against, and one abstained.

* * *

During the Italian National Day reception at the Coconut Palace last Friday evening, various Europeans spoke to me about the abolition bills that were pending in both the Senate and the House. They all made known the intense passion with which the European Union countries regard the issue on death penalty. One or two even prodded me to help campaign in the media for its abolition. Two months ago, an EU delegation, headed by a member of the Spanish Parliament, came to persuade our lawmakers to get on with the law on the abolition. I pointed out to the Europeans the bill sponsored by Arroyo's justice and human rights committee. But some diplomats were not too optimistic, given the record of slumbering major bills in the Senate.

But then last Tuesday, both chambers passed the bill—truly a record. By yesterday afternoon, they had reconciled their versions in the bicameral committee by means of a teleconference—high tech *na, super-bilis pa*! The final step is for GMA to sign it into law.

* * *

What did the trick? Lagman—who should be the last person to espouse this cause, two brothers of his having been killed in a violent manner—opined that the recent move is a recognition that Congress erred in passing the death penalty law in 1994. He said that for some years now, there has been a de facto abolition, but the passage of the bill in Congress can now set the records straight. Lagman stressed that the Supreme Court has noted that the rate of error in carrying out capital punishment in our country is 71.77 percent; the tragedy is, once it's "done" there's no rectifying the error. Besides, he said, capital punishment has failed to prove that it deters crime.

* * *

Last Tuesday's fastracking of the abolition showed that with political will, the chambers can get things done together. As Lagman put it, "If the Senate really wants it, it becomes a fast lane; but if it doesn't want, then it's a long-meandering river." Nograles put it differently: 'Just as we have the 'De Venecia Express' in the House, it shows that in the Senate they also have the 'Drilon Express'—if they really set their heart to it." He then quipped that he hopes the same speedy action could apply to Charter change.

Right now all eyes are riveted on the budget. Would it be passed before Congress adjourns on Friday? Lagman is not optimistic as the budget bicam committee has adjourned and no resumption notice has been issued.

* * *

Legislators in both chambers crossed party lines on the issue of death penalty. In the Senate four versions were consolidated by the justice committee: those of Aquilino Pimentel and Sergio Osmeña III of the opposition; and those of Manuel Villar and Ralph Recto of the administration. It should be noted that in the 12th Congress, Sen. Francis Pangilinan filed a similar bill, except that it was overtaken by adjournment. Pimentel was tasked to defend the new version. At first there were some objections to the abolition, but over time the objections disappeared. At voting time, there was no dissenting vote even from the opposition. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada justified his abstention by saying he (and his father) stands to benefit from the bill's passage. It was a politically correct move. Senate Chief Franklin Drilon suggested that capital punishment be reduced to reclusion perpetua but without parole.

* * *

It is said that the passed bill is a fitting *pabaon* for President Macapagal-Arroyo for her European trip two weeks from now. In the places she will visit, namely, the Vatican (where she will have an audience with Pope Benedict XVI), Italy and Spain, abolition is a big issue. GMA will look good delivering the message that the bigger of the two Christian nations in Asia has finally thrown out death penalty for a more humane approach to criminal rehabilitation. Interestingly, in the opposition-dominated Senate, there were those who were strongly averse to giving her the *pogi* points that she could bring with her to Europe; but in the end they rose to the challenge, their distaste for GMA overwhelmed by their desire to pass the abolition law.

* * *

Valid fears have been expressed by representatives of the victims of celebrated crimes, such as Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, who argued that the new law could signal to criminals that the State has weakened in its determination to stamp out criminality. That need not be the case if the arrest and prosecution of criminals will be pursued with more vigor. But this means beefing up and reforming the police force, and providing it with equipment needed to run after the criminals. It also means weeding out corrupt fiscals and judges who, for a fee, let criminals go scot-free.

Letter from East Timor

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO (2002) WHEN I WEPT while watching on television East Timor's declaration of independence, after being under the Portuguese for 400 years and Indonesia for almost 30 years; and Xanana Gusmao taking his oath as that country's first president.

I was in East Timor so very briefly in 1995 for the Ahi Naklakan Solidarity Tour (Ahi Naklakan is Tetum for light) with human rights activists. After several days, we were found out and promptly rounded up by the Indonesian military and brought to the airport.

When independence was nigh in 1999, violence erupted and many were killed, among them religious missionary sisters. Foreign journalists left in haste; but thanks to information technology and e-mail, the world was kept aware of what was happening there. Amid bursts of gunfire, missionaries e-mailed letters, some of which I used in this space ("Epistles via e-mail," 9/23/99).

East Timor is again in the throes of war. Here again is a letter from a missionary I know. She had worked in the Philippines and was assigned to East Timor a few years ago. For reasons of security, I have removed names from her letter.

"Yesterday 28 May, I decided to temporarily leave East Timor via one of the evacuation flights to Darwin, Australia ...

"The situation in Dili (the capital) became more and more chaotic with roaming youth gangs terrorizing the city. They have been burning houses, looting, threatening people, etc. It is a very complex and confusing situation. It is very hard to understand just what is happening.

"Saturday night, there were pistol shots in the compound where I live. I was in my house with five Timorese friends who had sought refuge. The complicating factor is that my landlord is related to Prime Minister Alkatiri who is disliked by most of the population. Some of the homes of people related to government officials have been burned. I feared that my place may be burned, even though it is at the back end of the Australian Embassy and adjacent to the Australian-East Timorese Defense Cooperation Program compound ...

"On Saturday night, my friends and I went to the airport and joined other internally displaced persons (IDP) there. We slept under the stars. By yesterday at noontime, the reports said that the situation was becoming more dangerous. The rebels were allegedly on their way to attack Dili.

"Around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, I decided that I would leave the country temporarily ... Around 3 p.m., I just walked to the airport entrance and told an Australian soldier that I was an American with an Australian visa and would like to evacuate to Darwin .... We left Dili around 8 p.m. on a C-130 with Timorese and other internationals.

"I am determined to return to Dili once the situation becomes more calm... I am willing to do anything to help East Timor. Let me start by writing what I know has been happening there ...

"On the night of 27 May, there was heavy shooting near (a Timorese friend's) home and it continued until Saturday morning. They finally evacuated to a Catholic seminary at Fatumeta, about one kilometer from Surik-mas. Yesterday afternoon, while I was waiting for my flight to Darwin, I received a text from a friend, who is British, (telling me) that the seminary was being attacked. I immediately informed an Australian soldier at the airport and asked them to send troops to the seminary. Later, I received another text message ... the attackers were going to burn the vehicles to be used to evacuate the people from the seminary ...

"A colleague and his family made it safely to Baucau on Friday afternoon. There was terrible shooting and burning of houses in Becora and Kuluhun since Saturday. (Someone) called me yesterday while I was at the airport and told me that his home and (our NGO's office) have been burned...

"Other friends of mine have left their homes. There are thousands of IDPs at the airport, church compounds and religious communities. Some have been attacked.

"Around 1,800 Australian troops are on the ground, but as far as I know they cannot attack; they can only fire if they are fired upon. One of my friends witnessed a house being burned by gangs in the presence of Australian troops who only fired shots in the air. I was told today there are road blocks put up by the gangs in different parts of the city. I experienced one on my way to the airport yesterday ...

"I understand that the Prime Minister is under pressure to resign. President Xanana finally has complete control over the national and international forces. Up until last night Alkatiri was saying that he also was in control of the military forces. The police force collapsed and is totally dysfunctional. This is a very critical period for Timor. I believe that if the Prime Minister steps down now, there is a chance that much of the violence will stop. But if he doesn't, I fear there could be all-out war.

"Please pray for us. The people have suffered so much. It is so tragic to see them at makeshift refugee camps. Men, women and children in their tents, on the ground, with kerosene stoves, sacks of rice, plastic bags filled with their belongings, just sitting and waiting, hungry and cold.

"The evening I slept on the ground was quite cool. So far there has been no rain. But if it should rain, I don't know where the people will go. My heart is weeping and I am also so angry with these power-hungry men who lead countries for their self-interests and have no concern whatsoever for the people they are supposed to be serving. It is so unjust! Sometimes I just want to scream and ask, 'Where is justice?'

"Please keep all of us in your prayers."

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

June began in May

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHEN PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO BUNYE INAUgurated the present era of crisis with his two-CD presentation last year, he was actually ushering in the closing act of a performance that began in May 2001.

The Estrada administration, which had begun with a populist roar in 1998, ended with a whimper in January 2001. The Edsa era—which began with an assassination in 1983, gloriously triumphed in 1986, then achieved a more modest revival (in terms of numbers and idealism) with the fall of Estrada—in turn quickly came to an end with the attempt to storm Malacañang in May 2001.

If Estrada's fall resulted in a great populist hangover—the masses could sweep aside all opposition to elect a president but could not keep him in power in the face of the determined "assault" of the middle- and upper-classes—the May 1 rebellion revealed how Civil Society networking, a legacy of the first Edsa, could make another, more limited Edsa possible but could not keep a president safe, either. For both Estrada and Arroyo, the military was the antidote to populism.

The two Edsas pitted a new approach of political organizing and logistics management against the old, traditional, political kind. In 1986, Edsa exposed the cheating and brought the people to the barricades; in 2001 it did the same—though by then the Edsa constituency, decimated by the destruction of the old middle class—had become much smaller.

Since numbers count in any kind of politics, the lack of numbers can only be compensated through the possession of arms. Thus the military serves as an antidote to populism.

The first and second Edsa actually proved that besides formal elections, people believe in democracy through plebiscites. Philippine leaders in the modern era have always known this. That was the reason Marcos gambled that even if held outside the formal requirements of law, any kind of raising of hands, so long as widely held and reported, was as good a means of establishing legitimacy as any. In 1981 and 1986, though, he did accept the need for formal elections, which he expected to ratify his leadership.

Since elections involve both large groups of people casting their ballots, professional politicians, from the late Marcos years to 1992, wrestled with the horrifying realization that the public was too vast, too independent-minded, and most of all, too unpredictable to manage in the old, tried-and-tested ways.

Marcos inaugurated trending and cheating by massaging the counting of votes—in addition to the traditional snatching of ballot boxes and forging of ballots. Ramon Mitra Jr. and Jose de Venecia both learned from Marcos: building up a network of leaders and a web of patronage and alliances wasn't enough. Too many allies just take the campaign doles only to stab the giver in the back.

And while Estrada proved that a popular candidate would be difficult to cheat, those supposedly in the know also learned that in a close race, the new way to play the game is to count the Marcos way—with Comelec operators: If you can't bribe or frighten the public, make the votes academic.

If Marcos and Estrada, the alpha and omega of one political tradition, learned anything about democracy, it was all negative: popularity isn't enough, and anyway, for many politicians, popularity is impossible to achieve; it's wasteful to stuff or snatch ballot boxes, it's more efficient to intervene in the counting at the provincial level; political machinery won't win you elections, but it's essential in presenting the perception of certain victory; and if all else fails, reach for the gun.

The political genius of Marcos lay in his refusing to abide by any rules; the weakness of Estrada was that he gloried in breaking them. The weakness of the opponents of both men was that they were conditioned, culturally, to believing certain rules shouldn't be broken, and were horrified to see they were.

The legacy of both leaders was, they eliminated, once and for all, the strong, unwritten confines of tradition which may not guarantee honest government but keeps it running relatively smoothly, avoiding turning it into a never-ending, limitless struggle for power.

The virtue of the old, premartial law era was that it defined how winners and losers behaved, guaranteeing some stability and peace between contests, and confining the vendetta to the provincial level. The defect of the present, post-Edsa era has been to turn vendetta into a political constant.

After experiencing 20 years of bad government and greed, the country could accept a vendetta against the Marcoses, except it was so badly managed its legacy is the absurdity of Ricardo Abcede dancing with Imelda Marcos. Of the fall of Estrada, who bungled himself out of a job, a similar vindictiveness was uncalled for. At the time, I said he'd proven that a leader is ruined when he's perceived to kick his opponents who are down. When he fell, his opponents kicked him as well. It reenergized the masses; and the only thing between the masses and a prison cell for his successor turned out to be the military.

President Arroyo knew what a dangerous new world was born on May 1. That is why she briefly became a statesman when she announced she wouldn't run. And why her decision to run, after all, reduced Civil Society—which has been proven to be politically impotent—to merely another networking scheme that disguises the real political engineering taking place: the fusion of military operations with the manipulation of electoral results. Having embarked on that course, there is no turning back.

For the kids

YOUNG BLOOD

Allan Christopher R. Beltran

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"Hush little baby, don't say a word/ Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird/ And if that mockingbird doesn't sing/Mommy's gonna buy you a diamond ring..." **From a nursery rhyme**

I HAVE 10 NEPHEWS AND NIECES, THE OLDEST OF WHOM is only eight years old. So, when they all get together (and they get together all the time), it's a riot.

Before I had my own child, I was a couch potato, the *tambay* of the family. Which meant that I was frequently left with the responsibility of looking after my siblings' little children if not babysitting them. So I have been a witness to and a victim of the mischief of children for some time now.

I have an assortment of anecdotes to tell about my nephews and nieces. They are so many, in fact, that telling about only one of them would be enough to fill a whole "how-to" book on dealing with little rascals, and more.

When one of my nephews was three years old, he had Doc (one of Snowhite's seven dwarfs) for a stuffed toy. He would always be heard playing with (murdering, actually) his doll and calling it "Doc-leng, Doc-leng, Doc-leng...!"

Finally, to shut him up, I corrected him. "*Tutoy, hindi Doc-leng ang pangalan nyan, Doc lang,* (Tutoy, the doll's name is not Doc-leng, it's Doc only)," I instructed him.

Moments later, he was running around the house with the poor doll and introducing it as "Doc-lang, Doc-lang, Doc-lang...!

The lesson here is that a kid's vocabulary is limited, so you have to explain clearly to him what you mean.

When this same kid was around four, he came up to me to ask a question—or more precisely, to test me, as kids sometimes do with adults to show off what they have just learned (and believe adults don't know yet. "*Tito, anong huling kinain ni Jesus?* (Uncle, what was Jesus' final meal?)," he asked.

"What?" I told him in response, because I myself wasn't sure of the answer.

"Grasshopper," he told me.

It took me a while to understand that he meant the Last Supper. It turned out that his father had told him the story of the Last Supper, but somewhere the poor kid got confused about some words. Anyway, what my nephew said made sense if you try to go down to the level of kids. Some of them would put any object that fits into their mouths, so it shouldn't surprise you if one of them would think Jesus Christ ate a grasshopper.

Lesson No. 2: Since a kid's word power is limited, you have to be careful with words that rhyme.

One time, the whole family was gathered in the living room, when a precocious nephew announced, "*Kinagat ng aso ang Mommy ko!* (The dog bit my Mommy!)"

His parents were not around, so naturally everyone started worrying and asking about the details. "*Sinasabi ko na nga ba 'yang asong yan. Ang mommy mo kasi!* (I warned them about it, but your mommy wouldn't hear of it)," my Mommy said.

That remark made the poor kid shut up in apprehension. But when everyone was all ready to go and see how his mom was faring, he spoke out to clarify things: "*E, sa panaginip lang naman!* (But it was all in a dream)!" He went on to explain that he had overheard his mother telling his father that she dreamed about being bitten by the neighbor's dog.

Lesson No. 3: Let kids finish their story before jumping to conclusions.

But beyond the cuteness, the sweet silliness of kids, I have also been witness to the most touching episodes, the events that my sister calls "Salinger moments" (after J.D Salinger, the author of "The Catcher in The Rye"). For example, whenever one of my nephew's parents worked late nights and he would look for them, I would tell him "Working *si* Daddy at Mommy." I could see that the kid was feeling lonely at those times and longing for his parents, a sight that would break the heart of any parent who leaves their children for work. So to comfort the kid, we would wait for his parents by the window and look at the moon. But then one night as we were waiting for them to come home, the moon didn't appear. My nephew looked bothered and then he turned to me and asked, "Working *din ba ang* moon?"

Who would have guessed what the kid was thinking? He thought everyone or everything that leaves and disappears is working. Imagine the loneliness of being left behind be the last and only thing that comforts him at night.

Lesson No. 4: Be there for your kids.

This nephew of mine is almost seven years old now and has started going to school. One day last year, I ran into his teacher who told me he was shy and quiet. That came as a big surprise to me because he is one of the most outspoken of my nephews and nieces. Is this what school has done to him? I wondered. Is he growing up?

There is a lesson in this incident, too, and it is that we should not worry too much that our kids would grow up with their habits. They do outgrow them. We should let kids be kids, and not try to tame them, otherwise we might be clipping their spirits. They've got the whole world outside waiting to do the taming.

I thought having 10 nephews and nieces would prepare me for the arrival of my own little angel. But now that I have a 7-month-old daughter, I still am not prepared for the moments when I have to leave the house and entrust her to anyone. It's tough. Especially when I think of what I will miss: those cute moments, those touching moments. Then I wish I could just stay home and watch her grow.

But of course, we can't. We all have to leave some time.

Allan Christopher R. Beltran, 29, is a school teacher in San Pablo City, Laguna.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

US' forgotten workers from Subic

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF the Yamang Kalikasang Aming Pinangangalagaan (Yakap-Subic), an organization of victims of toxic and hazardous waste left by the US Navy in its Subic naval base (where we used to work), are disturbed that the USNS Mercy, the floating hospital of the US Navy, did not include Subic in its Philippine itinerary. (PDI, 5/22/06) We know how fully equipped this hospital is. It can help us who are suffering from various ailments we got from working in the Subic base.

Out of the 1,500 members of our organization, there are 1,200 of us still living. But every day, we are getting weaker. Our members die at the rate of three to four persons a month. Three hundred have already died—and probably many others more from another 8,000 workers who were exposed to asbestos.

The latest case was Ces Olmo. He worked for 27 years in the base. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer caused by asbestos.

Many of us live with a monthly pension of only P1,200 to P4,000 from the Social Security System. That is why we cannot even see a doctor and buy medicines.

We are deeply saddened by the fact that the US Navy, our past employer, has completely turned its back on us. If it insists that it is not legally bound by the Military Bases Agreement to clean up the bases, at least it should be morally responsible to the people who served the Navy for many decades.

We strongly believe that the contamination is real because we witnessed the negligence in the handling of chemicals and waste. We were not told then of their harmful effects, and neither were we provided with the necessary protective gear. Therefore, they should have included Subic in their Philippine stops to attend at least to the serious cases among their former workers.

I am 76 years old now. I spent half of my life working for the US Navy. There are many of us who feel abandoned by our former employer, the US Navy.

The Philippines is known to be the closest ally of the US government in Asia. Yet it refuses to look back and accept its responsibility for the human and environmental damage its Navy left behind. This makes us to conclude that the kindness shown by the US government and its military to disaster victims in the Visayas and Mindanao is self-serving and hypocritical.

—JOSE REANDINO, spokesman, Yamang Kalikasang Aming Pinangangalagaan (Yakap-Subic), 1308 Cristobal St., Sta. Rita, Olongapo City

SALLY and adopted son Sandy: life triumphs over adversities

A living reminder of moral uprightness shines amid poverty

I ADMIRE SALVACION "SALLY" RUIZ, the 58-year-old mom who adopted Sandin Lee and saved the innocent child from being aborted by her teenage mom. (PDI, 5/11/2006)

Truly, Sally is a living reminder that many Filipinos, despite the poverty that makes living very difficult, have remained strong in their moral uprightness. Abortion is still—as it should be—viewed as morally and socially wrong for it curtails life. The exceptional motherly instinct of Sally is a story worth telling. It did not just touch the hearts of many people, it also successfully showed society the priceless value of life in the midst of rampant materialism.

May society learn from Sally's story. Instead of viewing babies as mere mouths to feed, we should view them as future builders of the nation. This is where the role of the government comes in as provider of quality education, accessible health care, decent shelter and well-sustaining livelihood.

Population is not the problem, it's the solution. Poverty can be alleviated by improving the government's bureaucracy and system of governance which have become corrupt over the years.

Though poor, Sally lives each day with a clean conscience which she shares with Sandin's teenage mom who could have denied baby Sandin his right to live. No doubt, Sandin Lee has a big future ahead. Who knows, this child, who once could have been aborted, would become the country's President in the future.

—ANDREW P. AGUNOD JR., andrew_jr.agunod@up.edu.ph

New impeachment move to show GMA, congressmen in dread of truth

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S lackeys in Congress are making the stupid boast that they will reject the impeachment move that will be attempted by opposition congressmen this year. This even before the merits are examined. They are making a big deal about the impeachment being a political process rather than a judicial issue.

Since GMA's camp has the numbers, the administration congressmen can, of course, mock justice with impunity. The opposition congressmen realize this fact, but they will go ahead anyway if only to show the public how GMA dreads the truth and how contemptuous the majority members of the House of Representatives are of the people.

The minority will just have to try the impeachment process again next year, that is if GMA will still be in office. By that time the complexion of the House may have already changed, with a good number of GMA's wards having been booted out precisely for their stand in the impeachment issue.

GMA and her congressmen are totally unconcerned with the public's demand for an honest-to-goodness resolution of the very serious charges against her, even as she is exhorting the same public to join her in an excursion to the "Enchanted Kingdom" aboard her Cha-cha train.

A revered and trusted leader can lead his troops into the valley of death—remember Tennyson's horsemen in "The Charge of the Light Brigade"? But who would follow a perceived liar and cheat to a promised feast? Besides, who would feel comfortable in the company of former President Fidel V. Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Sen. Edgardo Angara (and others who are known to have contributed to the shortcomings of the government over the last four decades) as fellow traveler—even though GMA has successfully recruited a new "barker" in Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who still has resonant vocal chords but dwindling credibility.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Stupendous lack of propriety

IF THE WORDS OF THE WIFE OF THE late dictator Ferdinand Marcos are to be believed, the amount of wealth he and his family amassed during his 21-year reign must really be mind-boggling. She was reported as saying that the amount is enough to pay the debt of the Philippine government. That money has been the subject of a search that has been going on for 20 years now, a search spearheaded by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, an agency created soon after the fall of the conjugal dictatorship in 1986 precisely to recover that money.

The amount must surely be stupendous enough to whet the appetite of many PCGG commissioners, especially those who got the juicy post as a political payback, like Commissioner Ricardo Abcede who lawyered for Jose Pidal.

Abcede, owing to his position, should not have invited Imelda Marcos to his birthday party. But he did and even "waltzed" with her, thus showing that he has no sense of propriety. He knows that the woman is a major litigant in a case he is handling. The controversy surrounding the hot issue of a compromise agreement between his office and the Marcoses should have been first and foremost in his mind.

—RAMON A. MAYUGA, GeRMayuga@aol.com

Rapu-Rapu in the claws of reckless mining

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE ARTICLE "DELIcate balancing act: Gov't verdict on Lafayette." (PDI, 5/26/06)

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes told officials of Lafayette Philippines Inc. that the mining industry will be a bridge to a prosperous future. The statement could turn out to be true—at least, on the surface. It could mean more infrastructures, more schools and more services for the people. It could create thousands of jobs and could pay all our country's debt. It could mean quality life for our people. Indeed, mining could ensure a better future for our country—but that is, if the mining industry is used to promote national industrialization, and not entrusted to foreign outfits.

In the hands of foreign companies, "liberalized mining" would not translate into a sustainable economy or a better life for our people. It would be a threat to our national patrimony and sovereignty.

What happened to Rapu-Rapu Island showed how irresponsible foreign investors, as well as government officials, can be. Their greed will only hasten the death of our economy.

What the Bastes Commission found out in the Rapu-Rapu mining accident was Lafayette's recklessness when it comes to safeguarding the environment. The massive fish kill and the emergence of skin diseases which were not prevalent in the community before the incident gave us a picture of how the Mining Act of 1995 directly endangers life and environment.

Because the government supports the liberalization of mining, it must be held responsible and answer for mining tragedies. The government's assurance that Lafayette is a responsible mining company has been unmasked as a lie.

The change in the composition of Lafayette's management in the Philippines does not mean that the company is now less profit-oriented and more concerned with the protection of environment and the safety of human life. Meanwhile, it is still the victims of the Rapu-Rapu accident who have the burden to prove that, indeed, they are victims of the accident. And the officials will be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

This is the heartbreaking story of every community that is touched by the large-scale mining operations of foreign companies. This is the truth behind the "prosperous future" being promised to us by foreign plunderers and greedy bureaucrats.

Scrap the Mining Act of 1995. No to mining liberalization!

—PETER PAUL PINONGCOS, Kabataan Para sa Tribung Pilipino (Katribu), Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City

David's patriotism

THIS IS IN REACTION TO RANDY DAVID'S column titled "To be a priest." (PDI, 5/28/06) I left the Philippines in 1991 to join my two sons who, at that time, refused to go home to Manila after an 18-month stay.

Over the years, I've followed up on David's writings through Inq7.net. The column about his brother touched my heart. I thought for a while that he had somehow gone away from the Church. I now sense a certain closeness to God in his heart. While I continue to be amazed at his eloquence and good writing, lately I have noticed some degree of hopelessness and resignation in his articles.

There are some who believe that he is a communist and godless. But when I read his pieces, I see and feel nationalism, patriotism and love for country. May I suggest that he continue to serve the poor for God will be pleased. Congratulations to his brother Ambo and my best wishes to him and his family.

—FERNANDO MODESTO, fmodesto@aol.com

AGUSAN DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
Tel. Nos. (085) 343-8455, 242-3280
Telefax No. (085) 839-2275

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric cooperative with Main Office address located at San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, invites all qualified suppliers/bidders to bid for various electrical materials for expansion to seven (7) barangays in its franchise area. Canvass sheets may be secured one (1) week before the bidding schedule from the purchaser/canvasser.

Opening of sealed bids shall be done on June 22, 2006 at the cooperative's Main office, 1:00 in the afternoon in the presence of bidders' representatives, Procurement, Bids, and Awards Committee, and witnesses.

Interested bidders may visit the office or call Engr. Leonilo A. Lolong, PBAC Chair for more information.

(Sgd.) URSULO E. ANUTA
Manager

(PDI – June 8 & 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office – IVA
AMCJ Square Bldg., Diversion Road, Brgy. Bocohan, Lucena City
Tel. Nos. (042) 373-7782
Fax . 373-6936

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A (PRO IV-A) is inviting all interested parties to participate in the bidding for one-year security service contract for PRO IV-A offices listed below:

OFFICES	No. of Shifts per Day	No. of guards per day (24-hr period)
Main Office & Storage Bldg., Lucena City	Three (3), eight (8)-hr shift	Seven (7)
Sn. Pablo City, Laguna	Three (3), eight (8)-hr shift	Three (3)
Calamba City, Laguna	Three (3), eight (8)-hr shift	Three (3)
Imus City, Cavite	Three (3), eight (8)-hr shift	Three (3)
Trece Martirez City, Cavite	Three (3), eight (8)-hr shift	Three (3)
TOTAL NO. OF SECURITY GUARDS		Nineteen (19)

Approved Budget : Php 3,029,985.00

Eligibility and Bid documents shall be available for insurance at the Administrative Division of PRO-IVA Main Office from June 8–30, 2006, Monday to Friday, 8.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M., upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Pesos** (Php 3,000.00).

The PRO-BAC shall determine the eligibility of prospective bidder by examining the completeness and appropriateness of their submitted eligibility documents/statements against the checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary pass/fail criteria

Pre-bid conference is scheduled on June 23, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. while deadline of submission and opening of duly accomplished Eligibility and Bid Documents will be on July 06, 2006, 10:00 A.M. and 10:15 A.M. respectively, both to be held at the Conference Room of PRO IV-A Main Office. The official time clock shall be the wall clock at the Conference Room entrance. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained.

PRO IV-A BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to abort the bidding process, waive any minor defect/s or informality in the bids received, and to accept the most advantageous bid. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL T. MACALINAO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 8 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
TIMEKEEPING SYSTEM - Attendance & Leave Monitoring Software Personnel Information System capable of PC interface Consisting of the following: 4 units Biometric sensor terminal - with 2000 user capacity; with capacity of 120,000 transaction, backup power; stand-alone & network capable; installation & training, cabling for networking; numeric keypad One (1) unit 3 GHz Intel Pentium Processor with Hyper-threading - 512MB DDR2 memory; 160GB SATA HDD; 17" digital monitor; 128Mb AGP Video; 16X DVD-ROM (writer); 10/100 Auto-sensing PCI Ethernet UTP; Integrated Audio or PCI Sound Card with speakers; serial, USB & Parallel ports; PS2 keyboard & mouse; 1.44 Floppy Drive; preloaded OEM Windows XP Professional with CD; preloaded with Microsoft Office XP Small Business Edition (OEM); 600VA UPS Uninterruptible Power Supply 1 Unit	One (1) LOT	PHP 590,000.00	PHP 300.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, June 13-16 and 19 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. The pre-bidding conference shall be held on June 22, 2006, 2:00 PM at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org, and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 8 & 14, 2006)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartello
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9936
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Board declares Bulacan mining illegal

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF BULACAN ON Monday declared illegal the 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of a company extracting marble in an area within the Biak na Bato National Park.

"It is not a valid MPSA because it does not conform with the requirements of the Mining Act [of 1995]," Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said.

The board approved the resolution against Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (Rosemoor) on Monday. It came on the same day the Mines and Geosciences Bureau held a hearing on a proposal by the provincial government and environmental groups to ban mining within the original 2,115-hectare area covered by the park in eastern Bulacan.

De la Cruz said Rosemoor failed to obtain the board's endorsement from the board.

She said the provincial government would also not recognize the small-scale mining permit that Constantino Pascual, who claims control of Rosemoor, had secured from the Doña Remedios Trinidad municipal council in 2003.

Documents showed that the MPSA, which was signed on Dec. 12, 2002, covered 330.3 has in Barangay Kalawakan in the same town. Rosemoor got the MPSA after then Environment Secretary Ernesto Maceda cancelled in 1986 the company's Quarry License No. 33 over the same area.

The Supreme Court, however, favored Maceda's order in a ruling on March 30, 2004, stating, among others, that the "determination of what is in the public interest is necessarily vested in the state as the owner of all mineral resources."

In a phone interview on Tuesday, Dr. Lourdes Pascual, Rosemoor president, said the MPSA remained valid because all the requirements have been complied with.

Pascual said it was "not necessary" to get the nod of the provincial board.

De la Cruz said the board resolution authorized the provincial government to seize the marble blocks that Rosemoor would haul out of Doña Remedios Trinidad and nearby San Miguel town.

It was Constantino Pascual, not Dr. Pascual, who has been running the operations through the ore transport permits (OTPs) issued by Angel Bravo, MGB Central Luzon director, since November 2005, MGB documents showed.

De la Cruz said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was in no position to stop the seizure even as it reviews the validity of the MPSA.

"No department can be higher than local governments," she said, citing the Local Government Code (Republic Act 7160).

The board, on Feb. 6, approved Resolution No. 069 authorizing provincial environment chief Ricardo Medina Jr. to file a case for the cancellation of Rosemoor's OTPs.

With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

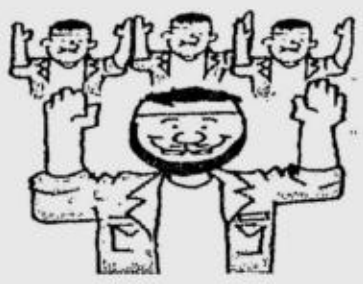
EARLY BIRD
ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU
A student sits alone in what appears to be a classroom in disarray at the start of the school season in Jaro, Iloilo. At least 1,000 students enrolled in one elementary level alone in the district.

ROUNDUP

Malaria strikes villages

KORONADAL CITY—Malaria struck five remote villages of Tupi, South Cotabato, taking at least 22 families ill, health authorities said. Loma Lagos, South Cotabato provincial head nurse, said the malaria victims are residents of Barangays Palian, Bulol, Mala, Kalkam and Tubing. According to Lagos, the disease struck late last month but reports about it reached the provincial health office here recently. The Tupi municipal health office quickly sent a team. Lagos said residents were advised to clean their surroundings and drainage canals. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

65 Moro rebs surrender



CARMEN, NORTH COTABATO—At least 65 Moro rebels surrendered to the military here. Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the series of mass surrender of Moro fighters is an indication of a more peaceful Central Mindanao. Col. Ruperto Pabustan, 602nd brigade chief, said of the 65, 24 were followers of Commander Abdullah Panangguling alias Abas, while 41 others belonged to the Moro National Liberation Front Misuari-breakaway group led by Commander Lugem Daud, alias Sadam. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARMM cop busted for drugs

PAGADIAN CITY—A member of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police was arrested here in a drug buy-bust operation on Tuesday. Senior Insp. Michael Pineda, chief of the 905th Zamboanga del Sur police mobile group, said police found that PO1 Rimbo Catong, 36, was selling shabu. Also arrested were Catong's wife, Guianema, 38; son Sanggacala; and a family friend identified as Mastura Ibrahim, 35, of Cotabato City. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 NPA leaders yield

BACOLOD CITY—Two New People's Army leaders in southern Negros gave themselves up to the 61st Infantry Battalion on Monday. Brig. Gen. Jerry Jalandoni, 303rd Infantry Brigade commanding general, identified the two rebels as brothers Ronel and Erwin Tañedo, both of Barangay Payawan, Cauayan, Negros Occidental. Jalandoni said Ronel was the finance and logistic officer while Erwin was the political officer of the NPA Larangan Gerilya 4 unit. The surrender of the Tañedo brothers was an offshoot of successful negotiations by operatives of the 61st Infantry Battalion since early this year, according to Jalandoni. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Village exec sued for poll cheating

ROXAS CITY—The Commission on Elections found a barangay councilor here liable for vote-buying in the 2004 elections and ordered the filing of criminal charges against him. The Comelec *en banc*, in a resolution dated May 3, 2006 but released only recently, ordered its law department to file charges against Patrocinio Besa, a councilman of Barangay Inzo Arnaldo in this city, for vote-buying and vote-selling. The Comelec said it found enough basis to file a criminal complaint against Besa based on evidence submitted by complainant lawyer Joseph Arrojado. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

New Silliman U president

DUMAGUETE CITY—Dr. Ben Malayang III took over the reins of leadership at Silliman University with a promise to work closer with the city of Dumaguete and the province of Negros Oriental. Malayang added that as a "new kid on the block," he would maintain status quo until he can ensure a smooth transition. He also acknowledged the active involvement of the university's alumni and friends in the affairs of Silliman. "It is not lost to me that many of our alumni and friends feel they partly own the university," he said, saying he has already received unsolicited advice from the time his name surfaced as the successor of Dr. Agustin Pulido. Malayang said he intends to make Silliman University not just a green campus but a "dark green" campus. "We will be moving towards less paper, the rationalization of assets and closer working relations with the city and province." *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Japan-funded flood control project completed

LAOAG CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTment of Public Works and Highways said residents here and in nearby San Nicolas town can expect their communities flood-free during the rainy season with the completion of a Japanese-funded flood wall system along the Laoag River.

The flood wall, stretching from Barangay Nalbo here to San Nicolas, is part of a dike that the DPWH started building along the river last year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo identified the three-year Laoag River Basin Flood Control and Sabo Dam Project as a priority by tapping the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to fund it. The project is expected to be completed in 2008.

Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki visited this capital city last week and checked the status of the flood control project and other infrastructures being built under Japan's Official Development Assistance program.

Yamazaki met briefly with Mayor Michael Fariñas and Vice Gov. Windell Chua on Friday before proceeding to the different project sites around the province.

Laoag River floodwall system project

INQMAP ESAMBO

Fariñas said he was hopeful that the river control structure would solve the frequent flooding in three villages north of the Laoag River.

"This project is not only a solution to our flooding problems. It can also serve as another tourist attraction similar to the Baywalk (along Roxas Boulevard in Manila)," Fariñas said.

Inspired by Manila's attraction, the city government has developed a small park, known here as Laoag Boulevard, along the northern section of the dike.

The river control projects involve the construction of five sabo dams worth P850 million in four towns, and a P2.2-billion dike spanning the towns of Dingras, Solsona, Marcos, Banna and Nueva Era and this city.

The dike system covers 87 km.

The DPWH has tapped Japanese contractors to build the projects.

Glen Reyes, an engineer of the DPWH flood control and sabo dam project, said floodwaters coming from the river spilled over to low-lying areas on opposite sections, submerging houses, farms and the business district of San Nicolas.

"There are no more gaps in those areas because we have sealed the dike. Instead of spilling over to the communities, the floodwaters will flow directly to the Laoag River," Reyes said.

Reyes said two of the sabo dams were nearing completion while the rest were 50-percent completed. The dams projects are in the towns of Carasi, Solsona, Dingras and Nueva Era where major rivers are found. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Red tide found in Negros town seashells

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE BUREAU OF FISHeries and Aquatic Resources regional office banned the gathering and selling of different varieties of seashells in the coastal waters of Siaton, Negros Oriental after they were found to be contaminated with red tide toxin.

An advisory released on Tuesday by BFAR officer-in-charge Benjamin Felipe Tabios said the number of toxins found in shellfish samples collected off Siaton had reached 3,477 per 100 grams, or much higher than the accepted level of 40 per 100g.

"Therefore, to avoid paralytic shellfish poisoning, the public is hereby advised to refrain from eating, gathering or harvesting, transporting and marketing shellfish from coastal waters of Siaton, Negros Oriental until such time that the shellfish toxicity level is below the regulatory level of 40 ug/100g," Tabios said in the advisory.

Lourdes Arciaga, information officer of the regional BFAR office, said the shellfish ban in Siaton was decided after seven youths were poisoned last week after they ate green mussels, or *tahong*, from the Tambobo Cove in Siaton.

Arciaga said four of the youths were hospitalized while the three others were treated as outpatients at a hospital in Siaton.

Arciaga said the seven victims are members of a youth organization that was engaged in a green mussel culture project in Siaton.

Arciaga said the provincial health office in Siaton asked the BFAR to conduct an investigation and check the seashell samples in Siaton.

Arciaga said laboratory tests confirmed the high red tide toxin level in Siaton's water.

Arciaga said the toxic level of red tide usually increased from the end of the dry season to the start of the rainy season.

Arciaga said the BFAR was also monitoring other areas, such as Bais Bay in Negros Oriental, Candijay Bay in Bohol and the seas in Northern Cebu to determine if these are red tide free.

To ensure the safety of the public, BFAR had strictly prohibited the transport of seashells from certain areas without the so-called auxiliary permit to be issued by the BFAR or the local government unit.

Tabios, in his advisory, clarified that fish from Siaton are still safe but the public is advised to clean them well before cooking.

Tabios also identified in a separate bulletin the different areas that are positive of the red tide toxin and toxic red tide organisms.

These are the coastal waters of Milagros in Masbate; Honda Bay in Puerto Princesa, Palawan; Dumanquillas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur; Balite Bay in Mati, Davao Oriental; Juag Lagoon in Matnog, Sorsogon; Irong-Irong Bay in Samar; Bislig Bay in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur and the coastal waters of Siaton, Negros Oriental.

Red tide areas

THE INCREASE in the level of red tide toxins in parts of Negros Oriental made mussels and other seashells from Siaton town poisonous. Other areas are being monitored for red tide.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Baguio 'walis-tambo' rooted in Catanduanes

VETERAN broom maker Eddie Nazareno works even on a Sunday to meet orders. He makes at least P200 a day, which is more than the mandated daily wage for workers in Catanduanes. FERNAN GIANAN

By Fernan Gianan
Virac, Catanduanes

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, tourists and other buyers of that lowly household cleaning tool called the *walis-tambo* (soft broom), its wooden handle emblazoned with "Baguio City," never knew where the material really came from.

Tiger grass never grew well in Bontoc, while soft broom makers in Bataan and Nueva Ecija never planted their own.

Now the secret is slowly coming out. Thanks to a group of enterprising businessmen and a government that have finally taken notice of a largely ignored but economically significant, multimillion-peso cottage industry in the island-province of Catanduanes.

On May 14-May 18, seven barangays in the northern town of Caramoran held its 2nd Sugbo Festival to celebrate their good fortune of having such useful grass thrive in their mountainous, stony terrain.

Barangays Hitoma, Inalmasinan, Bulalacao, Iyao, Guiamlong, Obi and Salvacion are the centers of the tiger grass industry which, according to the Department of Trade and Industry, generates revenues of P20 million to P30 million yearly.

The *sugbo*, as the grass is popularly called in Caramoran, is scientifically known as *Thysanolaema maxima* of the *Graminae* family. Also known as *lasa* in other parts of Catanduanes and Bicol, it is grown commercially as material for soft broom, a popular cleaning tool of Filipinos, and some handicrafts.

Beginnings

Lorenzo Benedicto, 70, recalls that he and his father started their *sugbo* processing business in 1955, when soft broom (referred to as the *samhod* on the island) cost just 25 centavos.

He said his earnings supported his family of 14 children. He supplies at least 2,000 soft brooms a month to the SM chain of malls, Baguio and Manila.

For decades, traders have brought almost all of the *sugbo* panicles harvested in Caramoran to Mabatang, Abucay, Bataan. The raw materials are made into soft brooms, marked "Baguio City" and sold in the summer capital to tourists and domestic users.

Elmer Samonte, who says he was one of the three original *viajeros* of raw tiger grass panicles, claims they were instrumental in the growth of the *lasa* processing industry in Bataan.

Last year, a delegation of Caramoran officials led by Mayor Ma. Theresa Qua went to Mabatang to explore the possibility of raising the price of raw materials.

Their Bataan counterparts pleaded that their traders be not banned from buying the *lasa* so as not to jeopardize the livelihood of 1,000 processors there.

From a very few who sold soft brooms in Catanduanes, the number of tiger grass processors has grown to 37 full-timers in the business.

In the Hitoma area, almost every household has members gathering or making soft brooms. They sell their produce to major processors for shipment to Manila and other buying centers.

Still, about 80 percent of the grass harvested in Catanduanes go to Bataan, where traders mix local fibers with those from Bontoc and the Bicol mainland.

Capital

The dominance of Bataan traders is understandable.

Aside from the typhoons that regularly visit the "Isle of the Howling Winds," the budding processing industry has been plagued by the lack of working capital.

When the *sugbo* is scarce, the small processors are forced to buy from other traders at high prices.

The *tampa* system, in which buyers give planters advance payment for their harvest, leaves the growers no chance of getting good prices or looking for other buyers, according to the DTI.

A shift in government priorities in the last five years has improved the situation.

In 2001, DTI-Catanduanes placed tiger grass under its Plus 1 program. The impact, however, was too insignificant to beneficiaries.

A few years later, the provincial government concentrated on efforts to help industries dependent on abundant raw materials like abaca, of which Catanduanes is the top producer in the country, and tiger grass.

New priorities

"The refocusing of priorities is essential because it enables the government to see the impact of its interventions, to see how far we've gone as far as developing an industry is concerned," said DTI provincial director Ireneo B. Panti Jr.

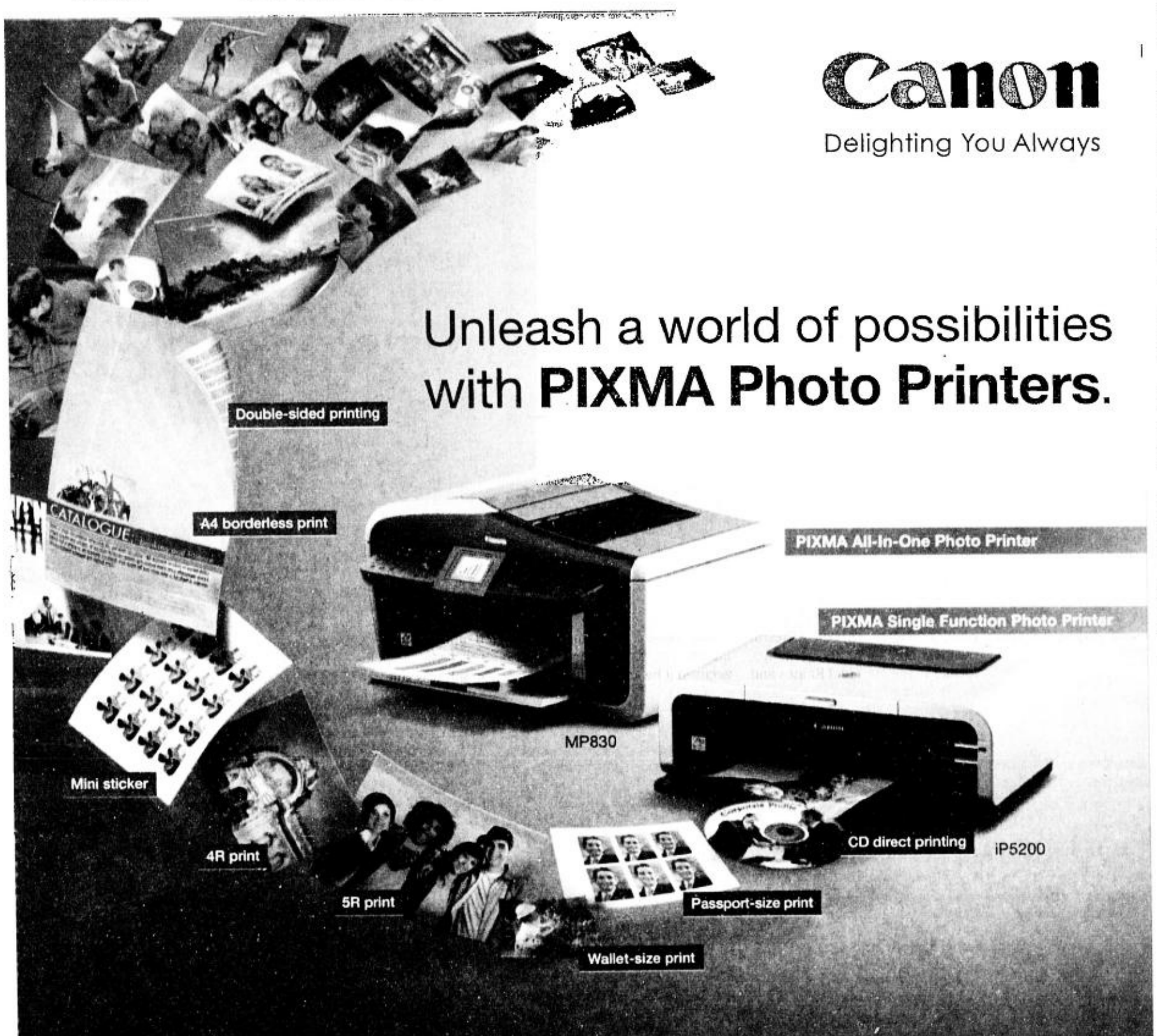
In 2005, *sugbo* or *lasa* was chosen as Caramoran's One-Town-One-Product (Otop), laying the groundwork for the serious development of the *sugbo* industry.

A series of consultations with local officials, farmers and processors to identify development gaps, and the type and level of interventions, led to the organization of the Caramoran Lasa Processors and Farmers Association, headed by Sanny Barra.

Rev. Fr. Jesus Guinguing, radio announcer Ferdinand Brizo and Soledad Ricafort Manrique—conceptualized the "Sugbo Festival" last year.

The organizers tapped professionals, civic leaders and adopted residents of Hitoma and adjoining barangays of Inalmasinan, Bulalacao, Iyao, Guiamlong, Obi and Salvacion, like Crispin Lopez, Merlyn Villalarbo-Avila, Karen Brizo, Josephine Tablante, Brenda Gonzales, Amador Abichuela and Elpidio Tuboro.

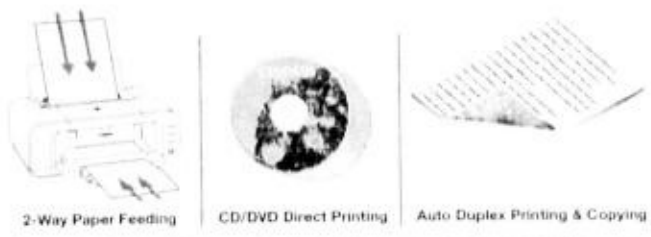
From this enterprising group arose the Sugbo Movers Association.



For greater efficiency and photo lab-quality prints

Feel the rush of excitement when you turn on PIXMA printers. Whether it's print speed, image quality or photo lifespan, Canon leads the race. Enjoy versatility with unique Advanced Media Handling features and a broader spectrum of print sizes from A4 to mini stickers. Plus boost performance and efficiency with new PIXMA All-In-One Photo Printers when you print, copy, scan and even fax. Come work or play, the possibilities are infinite. Find one that satisfies your needs from any Canon authorised dealer now.

VERSATILITY WITH UNIQUE ADVANCED MEDIA HANDLING



All-IN-ONE CONVENIENCE

Print Photo perfect, lab-quality prints straight from your desktop
Copy Sharper monochrome and more vibrant colours
Scan Advanced CCD sensor for smooth, high-resolution scans
Fax Fast, efficient fax to enhance work performance

HIGH-SPEED, LAB-QUALITY PRINTS

FINE
Full photolithography Inkjet Nozzle Engineering

- Flawless, grain-free and more vivid pictures with FINE™ technology using ink droplets as microscopic as 1pl
- Ultra-fast printing due to high number of nozzles for a wider print area in a single pass

LONG-LASTING BRILLIANCE

ChromaLife100

- Preserve the most stunning images for life with ChromaLife100 technology

PIXMA
PHOTO PERFECTION FOR LIFE

PIXMA SINGLE FUNCTION PHOTO PRINTERS

PIXMA ALL-IN-ONE PHOTO PRINTERS

Always use PIXMA printer with genuine Canon inks and photo papers for optimum quality prints.
Features available on selected models only.

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

9600 dpi · 1 picolitre · PictBridge

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Available at:

Canon Zone · Silicon Valley · Accent Micro Technologies, Inc. · Complink · VillMan · avant Abenson · cti Columbia Technologies, Inc. · TCA · PCEXPRESS · pc corner · enigma · PC Options · STRINGS Computers & Technologies · PC Chain Superstore

PSG linked to torture of 'Erap 5'

From page A1

five Estrada supporters were brought to the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for inquest on the night of May 23.

Pablico, legal officer of the PNP-CIDG, named two of the arresting officers as PO1 Noel Landicho de Ramos and PO3 Fred Labuguen Pimentel.

He said the Isafp had coordinated with the CIDG before making the arrests, but did not provide the names of its military operatives who led the arresting team.

It was the first time the Senate was told that the abduction of the five men was a CIDG-Isafp operation.

The military had initially denied having custody of Virgilio Eustaquio, chair of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice, Ruben Dionisio, Dennis Ebona, Jim Cabauatan and PO3 Jose Curameng.

The five men were seen in public only on May 24, when they were brought to the Department of Justice.

3 fractured ribs

Dionisio, a barangay kagawad of Quezon City, arrived in an ambulance and came to the hearing in a wheelchair.

His voice was weak and he was wincing as he told the committee how he was tortured into admitting to being a communist hit man.

Dr. Antonio Rebosa, medico-legal consultant of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, testified that Dionisio had three fractured ribs, multiple wounds consistent with insect bites all over the body, and contusions that, he said, were seen in hazing victims.

When Biazon asked if Dionisio could have inflicted the injuries on himself, the lawyer-doctor said: "In the realm of the bizarre, Your Honor, that is possible."

Joseph Palmero of the PNP Crime Laboratory said the medico-legal examination conducted by police on Dionisio showed he had suffered 11 injuries.

Dionisio's four companions had lesser or no injuries, Palmero said. But earlier, they also claimed to have been subjected to mental torture.

The five men are suspected of involvement in a Left-Right conspiracy to topple the Arroyo administration. Dionisio is accused of being a hit man sent to assassinate Ms Arroyo and several members of her Cabinet.

All five men have denied the accusations.

Kitchen sink

Biazon said the five men could sue the military brass in accordance with the doctrine of command responsibility.

Their lawyer, Salvador Panelo, said his clients would take to court those behind the arrests, including the two PNP-CIDG officers; the Isafp chief, Commodore Leonardo Calderon Jr.; the commander of Isafp's Military Intelligence Group 15 (MIG-15), Lt. Col. Henry Robinson Jr.; and a number of John Does to represent the unidentified agents.

"We will throw the kitchen sink at them. We will file cases of illegal arrest, illegal seizure, robbery, serious physical injury and attempted murder. We will file administrative charges [as well]. We want them out of the service," Panelo said.

The military had earlier submitted to the Senate finance committee a report on the arrests, but Biazon yesterday told reporters that he could not use it to disclose the identities of the MIG-15 agents.

According to Biazon, the report was "covered by the [guarantee of confidentiality] made during the executive session."

But he said he would produce the names "at the proper time and in the proper way."

EO 464

As in the first hearing on Tuesday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, Calderon and Robinson were no-shows.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz cited Executive Order No. 464 banning officials from attending congressional hearings without Ms Arroyo's consent. He reasoned that the Supreme Court ruling declaring portions of EO 464 unconstitutional was not yet final and executory.

But Biazon said this indicated that the AFP officials were following an order from their commander in chief not to attend the Senate hearings.

However, he said, he did not want to compel the officers to show up by issuing subpoenas. He said he did not want to push a confrontation between the Senate and Malacañang, and that he would rather wait for the high court's final ruling on EO 464.

PNP-CIDG chief Director Jesus Versoza said he was not able to attend the Senate hearing because "national headquarters" had ordered him to accompany PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao to Eastern Samar, where they visited the families of the latest victims of extrajudicial killings.

Versoza said he received the invitation to the Senate late the other day. He said he sent Pablico to attend the hearing in his stead.

Lomibao said he had learned about the inquiry from TV reports.

"I asked [Versoza] to join me in the visit to Samar ... I just found out now that he was invited [to the Senate]," Lomibao said.

But even if he had known of the invitation in advance, Lomibao indicated it would not have been automatically honored.

He said he would still have evaluated if there was "necessity" to attend the inquiry.

Electricity on his genitals

Dionisio—who, unlike his four companions, had failed to attend the first hearing because he was undergoing hospital treatment—testified that he was repeatedly punched, kicked and choked after they were seized by armed men in plainclothes from Eustaquio's house in Quezon City on May 22.

He said he was blindfolded throughout his ordeal.

At one point, Dionisio said, he was choked with a plastic bag and an electric cord was tied around his neck. Someone sat on him and punched him while another pulled up the cord, nearly choking him to death. Then he was dragged around by the cord.

"I almost went crazy," he said.

Dionisio said electricity was applied on his genitals. He quoted one of his tormentors as saying, "This man is lucky. The battery is weak."

He said he was taken to a place where he heard the sound of digging, and was driven to think that his companions were being buried alive.

Agrees to confess

Dionisio said his tormentors wanted him to admit to being a Mike Gamara or a Ruben Tiongco, supposed hit men of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

He said his tormentors threatened to put him inside a drum that would be cemented shut if he did not make the admission.

He agreed to confess to ease his suffering, Dionisio said. But they beat him again when he could not name the other communist cadres or explain the structure of their organization, he said.

Hit list

Biazon said the AFP allegation that the five Estrada supporters were communists did not justify their being tortured.

He said his committee had enough information to issue an interim report but that he would not end the inquiry yet because of the absence of the AFP officials.

Biazon also questioned the purported "hit list" of a communist group containing the names of the highest officials of the government and other politicians.

He pointed out that copies of the hit list were mailed to all members of the Malacañang Press Corps. "Who knows the [names] of all the reporters and correspondents covering Malacañang?" he said.

"Maybe the AFP has something to say about this hit list," Biazon said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Erap says GMA video proof of conspiracy

From page A1

"I was talking to five different groups and they didn't know about one another," Ms Arroyo said in the video played in the courtroom.

She purportedly said the anti-Estrada group included Leandro Mendoza, who later became the director general of the Philippine National Police and is now the head of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo also acknowledged the role played in Edsa II by several top military officers then, including Maj. Gen. Art Carillo, Lt. Gen. Alberto "Boysie" Braganza and Lt. Gen. Edgardo "Spine" Espinosa.

She also mentioned Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, a Copa member and brother of former President Corazon Aquino.

Estrada told the antigraft court that the video was given to him by a former Copa member, whom he did not identify.

'Irrelevant, immaterial'

The court allowed the showing of the video over the objections of Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who said it was "irrelevant, immaterial and even incompetent evidence" in relation to the plunder and perjury charges against Estrada.

Concrete evidence

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that the Supreme Court had twice ruled that Ms Arroyo legally assumed the presidency and that Estrada had lost presidential immunity from prosecution.

After the hearing, Estrada told reporters that the video "only concretized the evidence of conspiracy" against him.

"I was so overconfident," Estrada said outside the courtroom. "I had no intelligence reports that she (Ms Arroyo) was already plotting against me for more than a year. I did not bother to find out because I know I have not done anything wrong."

During last week's hearing, Estrada accused members of the Philippine elite—certain powerful businessmen, military generals, former President Fidel Ramos and the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin—of conspiring to topple him because they "could not accept" his landslide victory in the 1998 presidential election.

Estrada, a former actor who was swept to power with huge support from poor voters, has dismissed the charges against him as politically motivated.

On top of a perjury charge in connection with his alleged underreporting of his assets in 1999, he is accused of amassing about P4 billion from illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions.

Cross-examination

Villa-Ignacio began his cross-examination by showing Estrada a newspaper photo of a certain Joelle Pelaez, a former beauty queen. The prosecutor asked the accused if he knew Pelaez.

But former Manila City Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, one of Estrada's laywers, immediately objected, saying that Pelaez was not mentioned by Estrada in his direct examination.

Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution was out to prove that Estrada had used Pelaez as "dummy" to launder money. Flaminano countered that the prosecutor could be referring to another case against his client and he urged Estrada not to answer the question.

The court sustained Flaminiano's objection.

Continuing with his cross-examination, Villa-Ignacio showed Estrada a security camera photograph of Charlie "Atong" Ang, one of Estrada's gambling cronies who fled to the United States after Edsa II and is now facing extradition proceedings there. The photograph was supposedly taken while Ang was playing cards with Estrada and several other individuals inside a casino.

'Prosecution not ready'

When Villa-Ignacio asked Estrada if he knew the man on the photograph, Flaminiano again objected.

Ang allegedly delivered to Estrada P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks. But the court once more upheld the contention of Flaminiano that his client need not answer questions on matters not taken up during Estrada's direct examination.

In his talk with reporters, Estrada complained that the prosecution did not seem ready for his cross-examination.

"Maybe they have nothing to prove ... I am ready for cross-examination. I want this case to be finished so people will know the truth," he said.

"I have nothing to hide. I am willing to testify. I am willing to be cross-examined and have nothing to fear," Estrada added.

A verdict in the five-year plunder trial is expected later this year. *With reports from AP, Reuters*

'Character' meets 'traitor' at trial

From page A1

Estrada had once glowingly described Jimenez as a "corporate genius" and appointed him his economic adviser.

"I would say that if you can't say anything good about a man, I'd rather not say anything," Estrada told reporters as he left the Sandiganbayan Special Division courtroom after he testified for 30 minutes at his plunder trial.

"He [Jimenez] is a character that is hard to describe. That's all I can say," Estrada said.

'Let him suffer'

Jimenez was more outspoken but no less hostile. He called his former patron a "traitor."

Inexplicably, Jimenez, a former congressman in the 12th Congress, was wearing a well-worn white undershirt over shabby slacks.

"I am here to see the person who betrayed me and my family, President Joseph Estrada. I want him to suffer as I have suffered. I hope that he sees the truth in jail," Jimenez, a.k.a. Mario Batacan Crespo, replied when asked by reporters about his surprise presence in court.

Teams up with Chavit

Jimenez was extradited to the United States in 2002. He returned to Manila last December after serving two years and three months in a US jail for tax evasion and illegal campaign contributions to former US President Bill Clinton.

"He's still stuck in hell as he's full of lies. I hope he tells the truth so that our country can see a model of what is true," Jimenez said in Filipino.

He was accompanied by Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali but it was clear who his buddy was—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, also once a bosom buddy of Estrada.

Estrada's lawyer, former Manila City Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, said Jimenez's presence in the trial was part of the psychological war of the prosecution against his client.

Wish: Life in jail

"Maybe Chavit called him to come," Flaminiano said. Apparently Jimenez and Singson remained close even after the latter was convicted in the United States.

Singson, in earlier interviews, said he and Jimenez continued to keep in touch, calling each other on the phone.

During Estrada's testimony yesterday, Jimenez sat beside Singson, intently listening to the video presentation of the defense panel. He left after the hearing wishing his former friend a life in jail.

Prosecution witness?

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio told the court he might present Jimenez to rebut Estrada's testimony.

Flaminiano objected, saying, "Is Mr. Jimenez an accused in this case? Because there are several John Does and Jane Does in the information, I suspect that maybe he was one of those ... "

He stressed that Jimenez could not be a rebuttal witness since the former lawmaker was not mentioned in the direct testimony of his client.

To which Villa-Ignacio countered: "We are going to impeach the credibility of the witness [Estrada] and we are also laying the basis for calling Mark Jimenez as a rebuttal witness if necessary."

Jimenez claimed in 2001 that he personally handed Estrada checks totaling P346 million from December 1998 to August 2000, and that some of the money allegedly went to Estrada's secret bank account.

'Already guilty'

But Jimenez also told reporters that he didn't want to testify against the former President "because he is already guilty."

Singson told reporters after the hearing that Jimenez's testimony would destroy all the lies of the former leader.

"If MJ [Jimenez's initials] talks, it will destroy all the lies of former President Estrada. He will speak the truth. He does not know how to lie. He would just say the truth," Singson said.

However, Estrada simply shrugged off Jimenez's presence in court. He said that if the prosecution had a strong case against him, why bring Jimenez out only now?

US won't allow 4 agents to testify at rape trial

From page A1

Investigative Service (NCIS).

The no-show of the four agents caused the early adjournment of the proceedings, and may have also sparked another prickly episode in a case seen as a test of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

Earlier contentions have centered on VFA provisions that allowed the accused Marines to remain in US custody instead of being held in a local jail.

Pozon also ordered the Office of Legal Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs to explain why it failed to send on time the subpoenas intended for the four NCIS agents, even as the court made sure that the notices had been sent on time.

He likewise "reiterated" the notice to the four agents to attend today's hearing and fulfill their obligation to testify.

On May 30, the four agents were sent subpoenas to testify on their investigation of the alleged conspiracy of Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Daniel Smith to rape "Nicole" in a moving van at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005.

The 22-year-old complainant had alleged that Smith raped her while Carpentier, Silkwood and Duplantis egged him on.

Beltz took the stand at the hearing on Monday and was expected yesterday to resume cross-examination by defense lawyers.

Suppressing evidence

Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe delos Santos, the lead government counsel for Nicole, accused the US government in open court of "suppressing prosecution evidence" and of "delaying proceedings."

Private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua said the US government could also be cited for violating VFA provisions calling on the latter to "cooperate" in the trial, such as in the presentation of witnesses.

Beltz, Ramos, Curley and Papageorge are among 44 prosecution witnesses who could give information critical to proving the alleged rape, Ursua said.

She said the NCIS agents had been able to interview the accused, would "testify to [the latter's] admissions," and "could show inconsistencies" in their statements.

Reached for comment, US Embassy spokesperson Stacy MacTaggert cited "an issue of diplomatic immunity in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," about which, she said, the embassy and the DFA were "currently communicating."

Paragraph 2 of Article 31 of the Vienna Convention states: "A diplomatic agent is not obliged to give evidence as a witness."

Asked if yesterday's development would still be consistent with the embassy's earlier statements of cooperation, MacTaggert said: "Absolutely. We have been and will continue to cooperate as required under the precepts of the VFA."

She said the embassy had early on provided state prosecutors a copy of the NCIS fact-finding report on the Subic case.

"That's one way that we have cooperated," MacTaggert said.

In her account to the court, Delos Santos said the DFA had informed her panel that the US Embassy invoked diplomatic immunity in response to the subpoenas issued to the NCIS agents.

10 minutes before closing

She pointed out that the US diplomatic note was sent to the DFA at 4:50 p.m. the other day, or "10 minutes before the closing of office hours."

Delos Santos said this was a deliberate move to delay court proceedings because the late notice left the prosecution panel no time to inform its other witnesses to appear at yesterday's hearing, in place of the NCIS agents.

Pozon had required the prosecution to present at least one witness at every hearing to speed up the trial.

Delos Santos noted that a list earlier sent by the US Embassy to the DFA showed that of the four agents, only Beltz enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

"[But] in fact, Beltz has waived diplomatic immunity because he already testified," she said.

An official told the INQUIRER that the embassy "requested the [DFA] to reiterate the principle of the diplomatic immunity of the embassy staff" to the court.

The embassy also said it would take the court's "requests (subpoenas) under consideration" and would "respond as quickly as possible," said the official, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak with the media on the issue.

Reached late afternoon yesterday, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque confirmed that Beltz was entitled to diplomatic immunity in the country, being an assistant attaché of the US Embassy.

As to the status of the other agents, Asuque said the DFA was reviewing its records on them.

Gag order

Ursua said the embassy's move was a "gag order" on US agents who might present incriminating findings against the accused Marines.

"This is a slap in the face of the sovereignty of our country and our people ... We view this move of the embassy as bad faith, in violation of the obligation of the US government to cooperate with the Philippines in this case. This is obstruction of justice," Ursua said, adding:

"This goes to show that the US government is taking care of its own, protecting its Marines."

Ursua also said Filipinos were being abused and sent the message that rape was not an offense and that they should not prosecute: "*Binabastos na tayo. Parang OK lang na manggahasa, tapos huwag na kami mag-prosecute.*"

Task Force Subic

Task Force Subic Rape, a group supporting the complainant, denounced the embassy's move as "a gross disrespect to Philippine courts."

"This is a bad omen for the marathon trial ... [and] runs consistent with previous moves by the US government to evade Philippine jurisdiction," the group said.

It also wondered why the embassy made "an abrupt pullout" after allowing Beltz to testify earlier.

With a report from Nikko Dizon

NEWS
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2 26 1
SUERTRES 7 9 7
(All in exact order)
FOUR DIGIT 0 0 8 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
10 11 15 17 25 26
P42,798,394.80

Cut in human rights compensation hit

By TJ Burgonio

ADMINISTRATION SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESterday questioned the sharp reduction in the amount allocated as compensation for human rights victims during martial law after the House of Representatives approved a bill allocating only P8 billion from the Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

Arroyo yesterday insisted that the right amount was $200 million or P11 billion and demanded that congressmen rectify this in their version, if it's still doable, before transmitting it to the Senate.

The P11 billion figure was based on the 56.155 peso-dollar exchange rate in January 2004 when the Marcos' ill-gotten wealth was recovered.

"Why the figure has been reduced in the House is something that is unthinkable. We're talking about a P3 billion difference," he told reporters, sounding stumped by the reduction. "P3 billion is shaved off; that's something."

The maverick senator said he was surprised by the reduction because the Department of Agrarian Reform had already certified in past budget hearings that the $200 million was intact and had been set aside for compensation.

"We didn't expect that the amount would be reduced to P8 billion after it was certified that $200 million has been set aside," he said.

The Senate version, which is stuck in the period of interpellation, had allotted $200 million as compensation.

The House approved on second reading Bill No. 3315 allotting P8-billion compensation for some 9,539 individuals who were documented to have suffered human rights abuses during Marcos' martial law regime. It was expected to be approved on third reading this week.

The bill originally mandated that $200 million be given to the victims, but the House leadership insisted that the compensation be set in pesos and the total amount fixed at P8 billion.

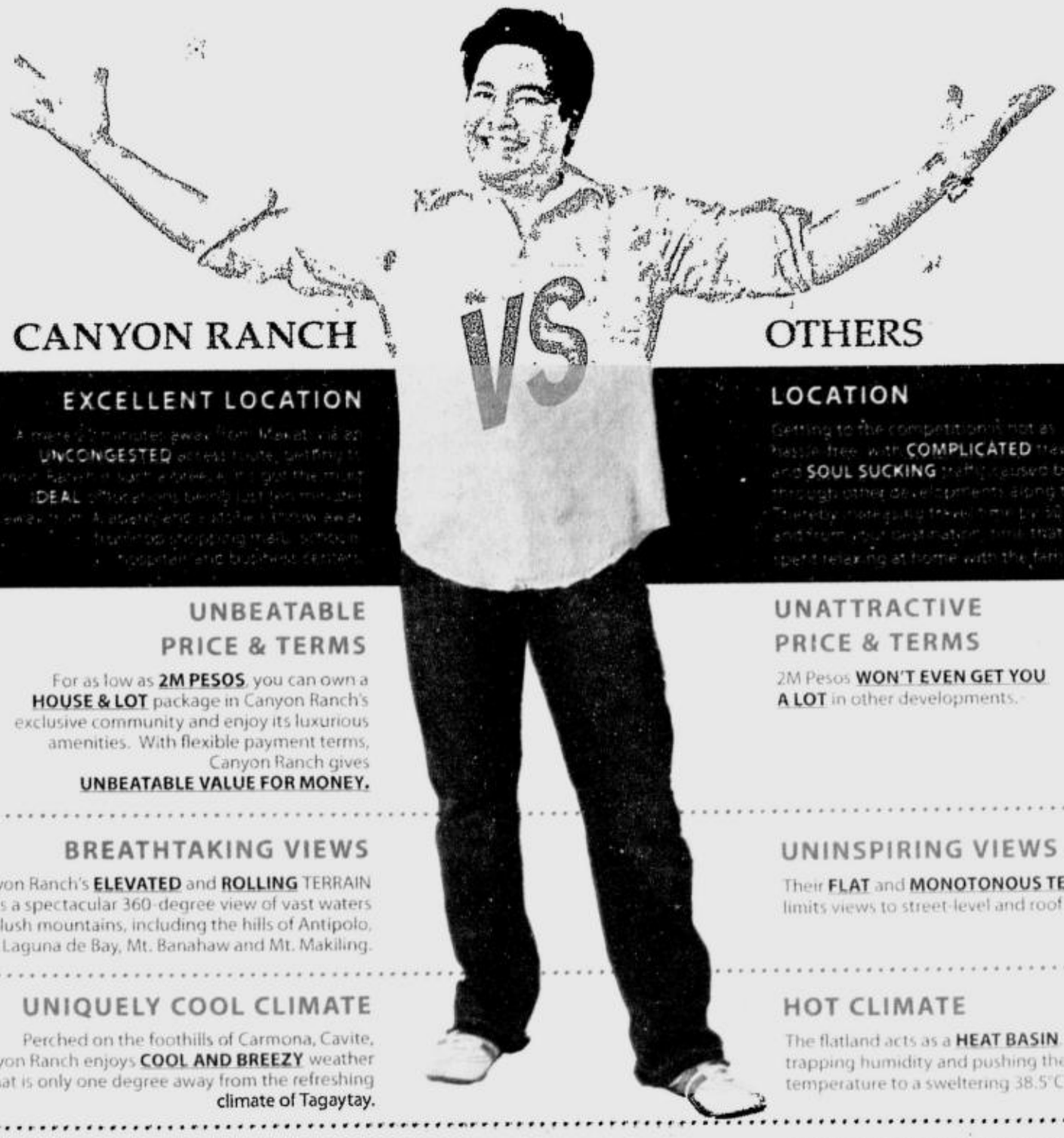
The $200 million was part of the $683 million in Marcos deposits recovered from Swiss banks.

Arroyo, chair of the committee on justice and human rights, stressed that the House should rectify it even if the bill has gone past the period of amendments and been approved on second reading.

"We can't do that [restore the difference]. This is an appropriation bill which comes from the House. The bill is a money matter, whether you appropriate or tax, it must start from the House," he said. "They should remedy it there."

Anakbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales had said that the bill's proponents would move to increase the compensation to P10 billion during the bicameral conference.

CANYON RANCH
THE BEST BY FAR
is actually quite NEAR.



EXCELLENT LOCATION
UNCONGESTED
IDEAL

LOCATION
COMPLICATED
SOUL SUCKING

UNBEATABLE PRICE & TERMS
For as low as 2M PESOS you can own a HOUSE & LOT package in Canyon Ranch's exclusive community and enjoy its luxurious amenities. With flexible payment terms, Canyon Ranch gives UNBEATABLE VALUE FOR MONEY.

UNATTRACTIVE PRICE & TERMS
2M Pesos WON'T EVEN GET YOU A LOT in other developments.

BREATHTAKING VIEWS
Canyon Ranch's ELEVATED and ROLLING TERRAIN presents a spectacular 360-degree view of vast waters and lush mountains, including the hills of Antipolo, Laguna de Bay, Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling.

UNINSPIRING VIEWS
Their FLAT and MONOTONOUS TERRAIN limits views to street-level and roof tops.

UNIQUELY COOL CLIMATE
Perched on the foothills of Carmona, Cavite, Canyon Ranch enjoys COOL AND BREEZY weather that is only one degree away from the refreshing climate of Tagaytay.

HOT CLIMATE
The flatland acts as a HEAT BASIN trapping humidity and pushing the temperature to a sweltering 38.5°C.

INNOVATIVE FEATURES
Canyon Ranch is the first and only Wi-Fi integrated community in the country. It captures the best of all worlds by bringing HIGH-TECH comforts to an idyllic natural environment.

ORDINARY FEATURES
Traditional, LOW TECH amenities

"Take that 25-minute scenic drive to this magnificent gated community and see for yourself why Canyon Ranch is my choice."

OPEN HOUSE TODAY!!!

CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP
818-9025 • 893-7050 • 0915-700-2000
www.canyonranch.com.ph

SC affirms 1017 ruling; Palace is unrepentant

By Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG REMAINED UNREPENTANT yesterday even after the Supreme Court denied with finality a government motion asking it to reconsider a ruling declaring as unconstitutional the arrest of protesters, the forcible breakup of rallies and the raid on a newspaper office carried out by security forces in line with the President's declaration of a state of national emergency last February.

"We respect the decision of the Supreme Court, but maintain that the actions taken at that time were warranted," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a terse message texted to Palace reporters hours after the court issued its final verdict.

Always safe

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, while saying he accepted the court's ruling, indicated the government was reserving the right to take over media organizations if it deems it necessary under future emergencies.

"They can always be safe as long as they behave," Gonzalez replied when asked by reporters if the government would still take over media organizations in any state of emergency the President may declare in the future.

In a resolution dated Tuesday but released yesterday, the court said it had "resolved to deny with finality" a motion filed by Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura asking the court for a partial reconsideration of its May 3, 2006 ruling against the government.

In that ruling, the court upheld the constitutionality of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Feb. 24 declaration of a state of national emergency and calling out the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence but struck down the warrantless arrest of protesters, the breakup of rallies, the raid on The Daily Tribune, and the imposition of standards on mass media.

No substantial arguments

In his motion, Nachura urged the court to reconsider the adverse portions of its ruling, claiming the President had the authority to exercise emergency powers under Section 17 of Article XII of the Constitution.

In denying Nachura's motion, along with motions filed by militant organizations asking the court to declare the entire Proclamation 1017 unconstitutional, the court said it was doing so "as the basic issues raised therein have been passed upon by this Court and no substantial arguments were presented to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision."

Like Malacañang and the Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police also justified its actions at the height of the state of emergency.

'In good faith'

"We still maintain that our actions during that time were within the parameters of existing laws and procedures," said police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao. "It was all done in good faith."

But it is clear to the police now that they cannot, and therefore, they will not, take over a private firm without an enabling law passed by Congress, Pagdilao said.

In its resolution, the Supreme Court also directed both Malacañang and other parties to submit in 10 days their comments on another motion filed by Nachura's office and PDP-Laban asking the court for a reconsideration of its ruling on Executive Order No. 464 which also struck down some of its provisions, mainly the ban on Cabinet members and other officials appearing before congressional investigations without Ms Arroyo's permission. *With reports from Christine O Avendaño and Luige A. del Puerto*

A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

SUSPECTED members of a fake law enforcement agency (from right), Marcelino Castro, Victor Castro and Antonio Lucion at the National Bureau of Investigation after their arrest last Monday. RYAN LIM

NBI busts fake lawmen's agency; 3 nabbed in raid

Group claims links to Palace, 6,000 nationwide membership

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE ALLEGED LEADER AND TWO MEMbers of a group claiming to be a law enforcement unit were arrested during a raid in their Mandaluyong City office Monday afternoon.

Suspects Marcelino Castro Jr. of No. 23 Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan; Victor Castro of No. 547 Barrio San Jose, Mandaluyong City; and Antonio Lucion of No. 571 Blue St., Don Bosco, Tondo, Manila, were presented to the media yesterday by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

They face charges of usurpation of authority and illegal possession of firearms before the Inquest Prosecutor of Mandaluyong City.

NBI Acting Director Nestor Mantaring said the Presidential Regional Assistant Monitoring Service (PRAMS) headed by suspect Castro claimed to be under the office of the President.

"But a certification (from) the records section of Malacañang showed (the) agency never existed," Mantaring told reporters.

The NBI National Capital Region (NCR) Office headed by Regional Director Ruel Lasala began its investigation after two former PRAMS intelligence agents complained about the group's suspicious activities.

NBI agents raided the group's office at Unit 3-A, Manor Building, 161 Boni Avenue, Plainview, Mandaluyong City. The team confiscated two caliber .45 pistols, five boxes of documents and a huge signage with the group's name.

"We were enticed to join the group because the recruiters promised us a monthly salary of P30,000," complainant Joselito Liberato, a Philippine Navy reservist who joined PRAMS last year, said in Filipino. "We sensed something was wrong when they failed to pay us after years of service," he added. Liberato said most of PRAMS' applicants were reservists and former military personnel.

"The group had recruited a total of 6,000 members nationwide," NBI NCR executive officer Ferdinand Lavin said. Group members would introduce themselves to local officials as law enforcers, he added.

Lavin said group leaders gave new members mission orders and identification cards for a "refundable fee" of P200. The mission orders, signed by Castro, also served as permits to carry firearms and "special privilege documents."

"The documents allegedly entitled PRAMS members to free fare and unlimited access to government resources such as firearms and vehicles," Lavin said. Members were ordered to raid beer houses and other legitimate business establishments based on the bogus mission order. "We are now looking into the possibility that the suspects may have extorted cash," Lasala said.

Executive order

An NBI investigation revealed that a Dr. Maximino Gamido founded PRAMS based on a nonexistent executive order allegedly issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Gamido, who was convicted for a string of criminal cases, allegedly continued to issue executive orders from the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City until his death. "The group had also been following its alleged budget of P6 billion in Malacañang," Lavin said.

The suspects said they had been conducting legitimate inspections of establishments suspected of violating the city or municipal sanitary code.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Soldiers added to list of complainants vs pre-need firms / A18

■ GMA to Angelo Reyes: Clean up Pasig River, Manila Bay / A18

■ Suspect in Naia shooting incident mum about motive / A18

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Master in Entrepreneurship

A Learn-and-Apply Course for Entrepreneurs who want their own enterprises to become:

More Profitable by adopting the latest management tools and techniques
More Productive by vigorously pursuing Quality, Quantity and Cost Objectives
More Professional by installing the best management practices

The Master in Entrepreneurship follows these innovative learning methodologies:

Learning by Being
a better Person and entrepreneur through the process of Self Mastery

"I thought I knew who I was, what I wanted and how to get it. I was actually supposed to take the MBM program but I realized that the ME suited me better. Little did I know that I would discover myself, develop my passion for business and for building an enterprise. The Life Mapping exercise in the ME, where we shared our lowest and highest points, made me realize a lot about myself. I reflected on my goals. Was it my own enterprise? I concluded it was not... My goal is to touch people's lives... and building an enterprise is the best way of doing it."

Alexander Yu, ME 4
SmartGas
(Bahama Realty and Development Corp.)

Learning by Thinking
critically and creatively to discover new Paradigms through the process of Situation Mastery

"AIM provided me with the analytical and critical thinking skills to identify opportunities for Almont Inland Resort in the newly formed region of Caraga (Region XIII). With Butuan as regional center for governmental affairs and a growing business hub for northern Mindanao, I was able to lead my management team to properly evaluate and creatively capitalize on our changing market. We were then able to convince the company's board to shift our business paradigm from a purely leisure venue to a convention-oriented resort. With the construction of a 2,000-seat Convention Center, the resort can now handle increased government events, meetings, and seminars. The shift was timely. It has been instrumental to our success."

Julie Alegrado, ME1
Almont Inland Resort

Learning by Doing
by immediately applying Practical management lessons through the process of Enterprise Mastery

"Prior to entering ME, my business was run like a mom and pop sari sari store - no medium and long range planning, very, very few formalized processes, no goal setting, no measurements and basically just flowing on a day to day basis. The introduction of the concept of V-M-O-KRA-Pi has totally overhauled the way my company is being operated. The company now has a clear over-riding vision, which is being shared and implemented with the employees as well as our customers. Doing the S-P-A-T-Res is my personal favorite. It has provided me with a real checklist on strategy implementation down to the nitty gritty of things, as well as who will do what and at what cost. An immediate result of laying out these strategies on paper is the realization that I cannot do it alone and the cost of missed opportunities far outweighs the cost of setting up a team to work on these projects. The result of S-P-A-T-Res is the hot hot hot RSCI Business Development Team."

Russ O. Alfonso, ME 4
RS Concepts, Inc.

Enrollment is on-going.

Classes start on July 17, 2006

For inquiries, please call Reggie Santos or Kay Velazco at 892 4011 ext. 389 / 432
or email msantos@aim.edu

EQUIS ACCREDITED

Drive your Dream
AUTO LOAN

Dream Car Mo, Text Mo

Applying for your new car is now a text message away!

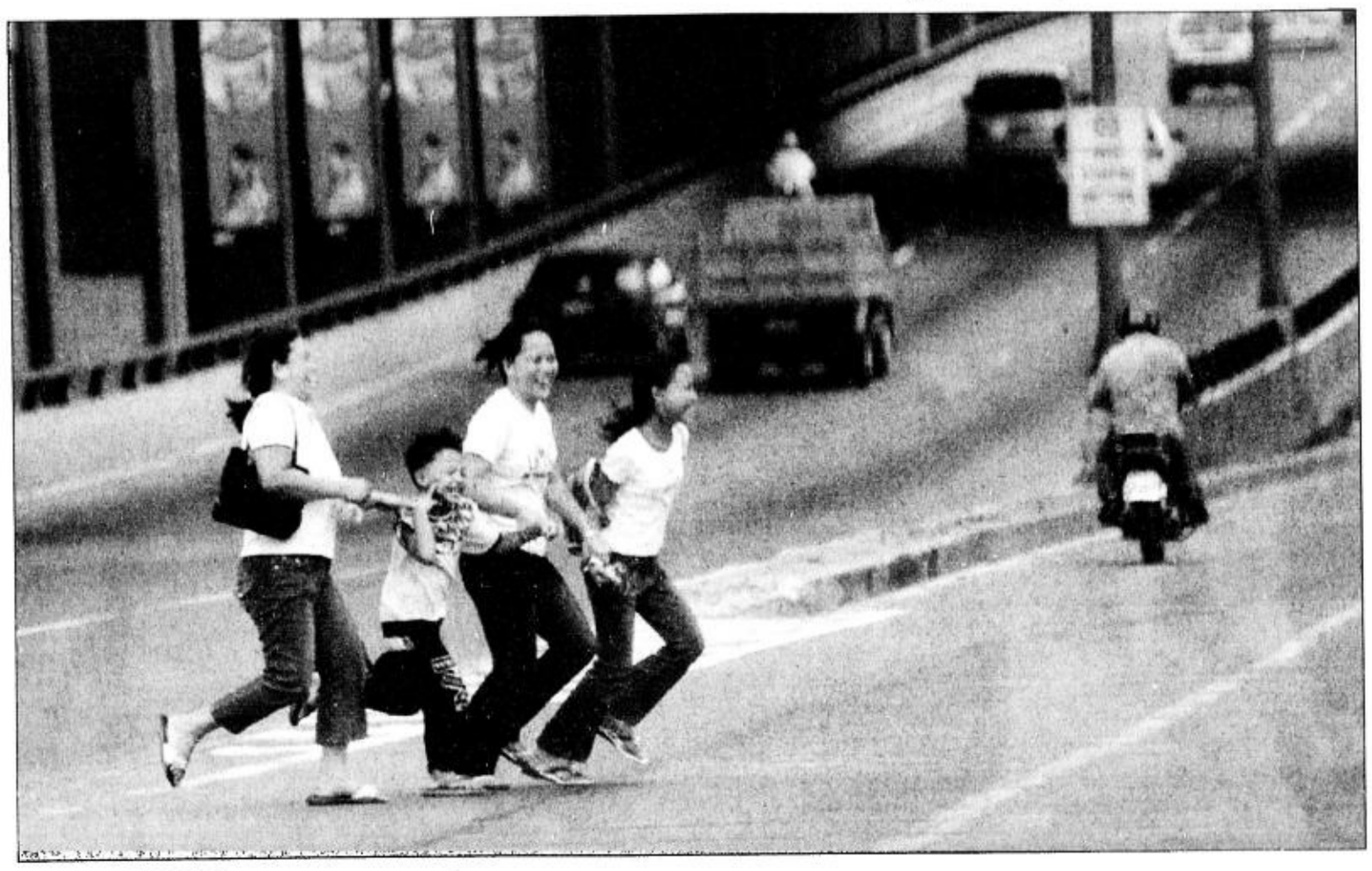
Key in AUTO<space>your full name<space>your landline number<space>city or province
example: "AUTO Manny Gomez 8456777 Makati City"
send it to 0917-89100-00 and we will get started on your Auto Loan application.

No time wasted. Walang hassle. Super-bilis ang application.

For more information, call the Auto Loans Direct Marketing hotline at 8456777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7).

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

Pre-need firms collapse makes OFWs of wives



RISKY BUSINESS
Ignoring overpasses and fines imposed on jaywalking, this family risks the danger that comes with taking a shortcut to get to the other side. RAFFY LERMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SCHOOLING OF CHILDREN of hundreds of soldiers is in peril after two major pre-need firms stopped paying their educational plans.

Air Force Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla told reporters yesterday his wife had to seek employment overseas for their children's college education. Military officers and soldiers are not allowed to have a second job.

Padilla, a former Air Force spokesperson who now heads the Tactical Operations Group 11 under the 3rd Tactical Operations Wing in Davao City, said they paid for three educational plans worth about P100,000 each from College Assurance Plan (CAP) for three of their four children. His eldest, now a junior in high school, planned to use her CAP plan for her nursing education in two years' time.

In 2005, CAP and Pacific Plans Inc. announced their resources were no longer enough to cover their obligations. Padilla and his wife had to start saving for their children's education. Padilla said he knew of other officers and soldiers whose wives had also gone abroad to help pay for their children's schooling.

Padilla said some planholders had no alternatives. He said there was "no organized effort" in the military to take legal action against CAP and Pacific Plans Inc. Soldiers, he said, were just starting to gain "awareness" of the issues. He estimated that the military held some 2,000 educational plans mostly from CAP.

Padilla said they were monitoring class suits filed against the two companies.

Meanwhile, help continues to pour in for planholders of four pre-need educational firms. A private educational institution offered scholarships worth millions of pesos to help restore "broken dreams."

After the P50 million donation from controversial businessman Mark Jimenez, the Parents Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition received yesterday a P750 million scholarship grant from the AMA Educational System to cover 50 percent of tuition and other fees of 5,000 students.

"This is an opportunity for us to help these students," said Patrick Alain Azanza, senior vice president of the AMA Operations and Marketing Department.

METROBRIEFS

Robbers use new tactic

INSTEAD of ski masks and bonnets, the suspects wore wigs. Using a modus operandi which police described as "bizarre," four unidentified suspects robbed a gas station in Manila on Tuesday afternoon, carting away more than P100,000 in cash. "The suspects seemed to know what they were doing, conducting the heist in less than five minutes," Supt. Rodolfo Llorca, chief of the Manila Police District Theft and Robbery Section, said in an interview yesterday. Llorca said the owner of Petron gas station at the corner of Pampanga Street and Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz had difficulty identifying the suspects from the rouge's gallery "because they wore long, black wigs. The robbers managed to take a total of P108,000 before running away from the crime scene. "They did not even have a getaway vehicle," Llorca said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Suspected drug den busted

THREE suspected drug pushers and users were arrested during a raid in Pasig City the other night. But the three denied the allegations. Still, the discovery of at least nine sachets of shabu and shabu paraphernalia in at least two houses in Barangay Rosario was enough to cost members of the entire police community precinct with jurisdiction in the area their jobs. Pasig City Police chief Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami Jr. told the INQUIRER he relieved nine policemen, including precinct commander Senior Insp. Bernolli Abalos, for their "inaction." District Intelligence and Investigation Division chief Supt. Elmer Escosia said they had been monitoring the alleged illegal drug peddling activities three weeks ago. After getting a search warrant from Manila City Regional Trial Court executive judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., police conducted a raid on the houses of Aldwin Claudio and Totong Feliciano, both on the city's anti-drug watchlist in the city. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Back to school, finally

AFTER a two-day extension of their summer break, students of the Taguig National High School went back to their classrooms yesterday. The school was opened yesterday after a monitoring team from the Department of Education requested Dr. Eleonor Abisado, the school principal, to declare a resumption of classes. Abisado called off classes on Monday after some 100 teachers, students and parents staged a rally calling for her ouster on charges of corruption. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Suspect in Naia killing mum about his motive

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) yesterday presented the suspect in the killing of a ranking airport official at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) on Monday night.

But Chief Insp. Cenon Tenorio, 55, assigned at the 1st Police Center for Aviation Service (PCAS) as acting station chief, was mum during the whole press conference regarding his motive for shooting Naia action officer Eduardo Tiotioen. "I have no comment regarding the issue," Tiotioen said, covering his face. He also denied assisting anyone at the arrival area before a verbal tussle took place between him and the victim.

NBI Acting Director Nestor Mantaring said the bureau is looking into a possible long-standing feud between Tenorio and Tiotioen as a motive.

According to NBI Naia office chief Roger Mamauag, the incident began at the arrival area located at the Naia ground floor around 10 p.m.

Investigation showed that Tiotioen had instructed porterage supervisor Joselito Azucena to assist someone at the arrival area. After a few minutes, Azucena saw Tenorio cursing and following the victim to the Arrival Gate 1 and Duty Free Shop.

"Tiotioen had apparently questioned Tenorio's presence at the arrival area that resulted in a heated argument," Mamauag said. Tiotioen then instructed Azucena to look for the suspect and disarm him, Mamauag added.

Accompanied by porter Greg Garcia, Tiotioen proceeded to Tenorio's van at the Departure Loading and Unloading Area. When Garcia was about to approach Tenorio, the suspect alighted from his van and shot Tiotioen in the chest.

Mamauag said the suspect shot the victim three more times in the head and body even after the latter fell to the ground. "People like Tenorio, who have IDs authorizing them to go about the airport, are allowed to assist passengers to a certain extent," Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) head executive assistant Robert Uy said.

P/CHIEF Inspector Cenon Tenorio: No comment RYAN LIM

'Reyes is the man to clean up Pasig'

By Christine O. Avendaño

CLEANING UP THE PASIG RIVER AND MANILA BAY might be a piece of cake for Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes compared to his earlier job of curbing kidnapping incidents.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed high hopes that Reyes would be the man to help in rehabilitation efforts to save both bodies of water.

In a speech at the National Forum on Sustainable Development Strategy of Coastal and Marine Resources forum yesterday in Pasay City, Arroyo said members of foreign business chambers praised the former anti-kidnapping czar for bringing kidnapping cases in the country "at an all-time low."

The President said the praises were conveyed to her when she had dinner with the businessmen recently.

"And if you can bring kidnapping to an all-time low, almost zero, I think you're the one who will be able to rehabilitate the Pasig River and Manila Bay," the President said.

Arroyo announced she had signed an executive order adopting the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as a national strategy for the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine habitats and resources.

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Reyes: Big task ahead. JESS YUSON

She directed Reyes to lead inter-government agencies in formulating an ICM management plan. Arroyo stressed the need to protect the nation's coasts and marine waters and urged participants in the one-day forum to come up with a "holistic approach" in addressing the problem.

The holistic approach, she said, "emphasizes fighting poverty and enabling every man and woman and child in the Philippines to participate in sustainable development practices.

"We must act together and we must act now," the President said.

Navotas trader's abduction still a puzzle

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A BUSINESSMAN WAS ABDUCTED BY FIVE ARMED men near his house in Navotas yesterday afternoon, police said.

The victim, Augusto Lizan, 60, of Yangko Street, was on board a motorcycle when the incident happened, according to PO3 Dante Majadas.

A neighbor said Lizan owned several buildings in the municipality and was engaged in selling and buying scrap materials, particularly for big boats.

Several policemen, who refused to be identified, theorized the victim could have been arrested by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group based in Camp Crame because of his alleged illegal gambling operations.

"We received a report from CIDG operation Magdalena, but we are not sure if this is the same incident. The victim is reported to be involved in illegal gambling operations in Camanava," a police investigator said.

Majadas refused to speculate, saying they were still investigating the alleged abduction. A traffic enforcer, who witnessed the incident, told Majadas that he saw the victim put up a fight before he was pushed into a van that sped towards Malabon City.

A daughter's plea for financial support

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE FOLLOWING IS AN APPEAL from a 12-year-old girl to her father, who holds a position of great power and influence in society:

"Daddy, please send me money for tuition. The last time you visited me was when I was still a little girl. You and Mommy quarreled. Mommy told me you had to go back to your family. I always see your pictures in the newspapers and television. You always give money to little boys and girls who are sick. You send them to hospital.

"Daddy, you are so good to those children, but you are not good to me and Mommy. I tell my classmates you are my daddy. But they do not believe me. They say you do not go to my school. They ask why Mommy and I live in small apartment while you live in very, very big house.

"You even have a girlfriend *daw* who is very *pangit* and *bilog ang mukha* but you love her so much. Your girlfriend earns much, much money from [*deleted – Ed.*]. Mommy said you help your girlfriend become rich. I am only asking for monthly support.

"The last time you sent us money was after Mommy went to Erwin Tulfo. She told Erwin and Erwin told Ramon Tulfo and Ramon told you. That's why you sent money immediately. But now you no longer send money. Please, Daddy, don't forget your obligation to me. I am your little girl. Mommy does not love you anymore but I love you because you are my... daddy. You look like Santa Claus *pa nga, eh. Di ba* Santa Claus is generous to children? Why are you not generous to me?"

* * *

I know the girl's mother. She's an accountant who used to work in a cement factory. Fourteen years ago, the girl's father met the girl's mother at the office of the cement factory. They fell in love. Their union produced a beautiful girl who has the features of her father. The girl's mother has since left the factory. Both mother and daughter live in a cramped, small apartment in Makati.

All the girl and the mother are asking for is monthly support. If the man earns millions and millions of pesos in his [*deleted – Ed.*] in the government and in the private sector, why can't he share even a pittance with his child?

I should be the last person to criticize the girl's father, since I am not a saint myself, but I think the guy is too greedy with his millions.

Pare, you can't take all your millions with you when you die. Especially since you're prone to heart attacks considering you're obese.

Also, another word of advice: Use your power to make friends, not enemies. You should know that nobody stays in power forever.

I-DAY CONCERT
The Andres Bonifacio Choir will hold an Independence Day concert on June 11 at the Philamlife Theater. Patricia Descallar (above) and sisters Joeneth and Nethoel Beloy Semanero are the soloists.

Protesters ask E. Timor PM to resign

DILI—PRESSURE MOUNTED Tuesday on East Timor's unpopular premier to quit with more than 1,000 people on trucks and motorbikes converging on the capital escorted by peacekeeping troops.

"The most important thing is that Mari (Alkatiri) must resign and take responsibility for all that he has done," Augusto Junior, one of the rally organizers, told AFP, in the conflict-torn capital.

Prime Minister Alkatiri is widely blamed for the near-daily violence that has gripped the tiny nation since April when he sacked 600 of the country's 1,400-strong army.

The soldiers, from the country's east, had been on strike claiming they were suffering discrimination from those in the west, who are generally seen as more pro-Indonesian.

Alkatiri on Sunday reiterated his refusal to resign, saying he would only quit "if gunfire is heard all around—not now."

But since the weekend the clamor for his departure has grown, culminating in Tuesday's rally with dozens of trucks packed with protesters and hundreds of motorbikes gathering at his offices on the Dili waterfront.

"Bring down Alkatiri," shouted protesters from trucks draped in banners, one saying, "Dissolve the government of Alkatiri."

The leader of the rally, Augusto Araujo, met with Xanana Gusmao, East Timor's popular president who led the country's fight for freedom. *AFP*

Annan: World migration a boon to countries

UNITED NATIONS—UN CHIEF Kofi Annan on Tuesday touted global migration as a boon to both host nations and countries of origin but said it needs to be managed to prevent abuses of migrants or xenophobic reactions from native populations.

In a report to the UN General Assembly, he argued that "international migration, supported by the right policies, can be highly beneficial for the development both of the countries they come from and of those where they arrive."

He however warned in his "early road map for this new era of mobility" that these benefits were contingent "on the rights of the migrants themselves being respected and upheld."

The report pointed out that migrants last year numbered 191 million, including 115 million in the developed world, compared with 155 million in 1990.

Half of all migrants around the world were reported to be women.

Europe hosted 34 percent of the world's total in 2005, North America 23 percent, Asia 28 percent, Africa 9 percent, Latin America and the Caribbean 3 percent and Oceania 3 percent as well.

Annan submitted his report ahead of a high-level meeting on international migration and development which the General Assembly will host Sept. 14 and 15.

He announced that Peter Sutherland, the founding director general of the World Trade Organization, agreed to serve as his special representative for migration and was soliciting ideas from governments for the September meeting.

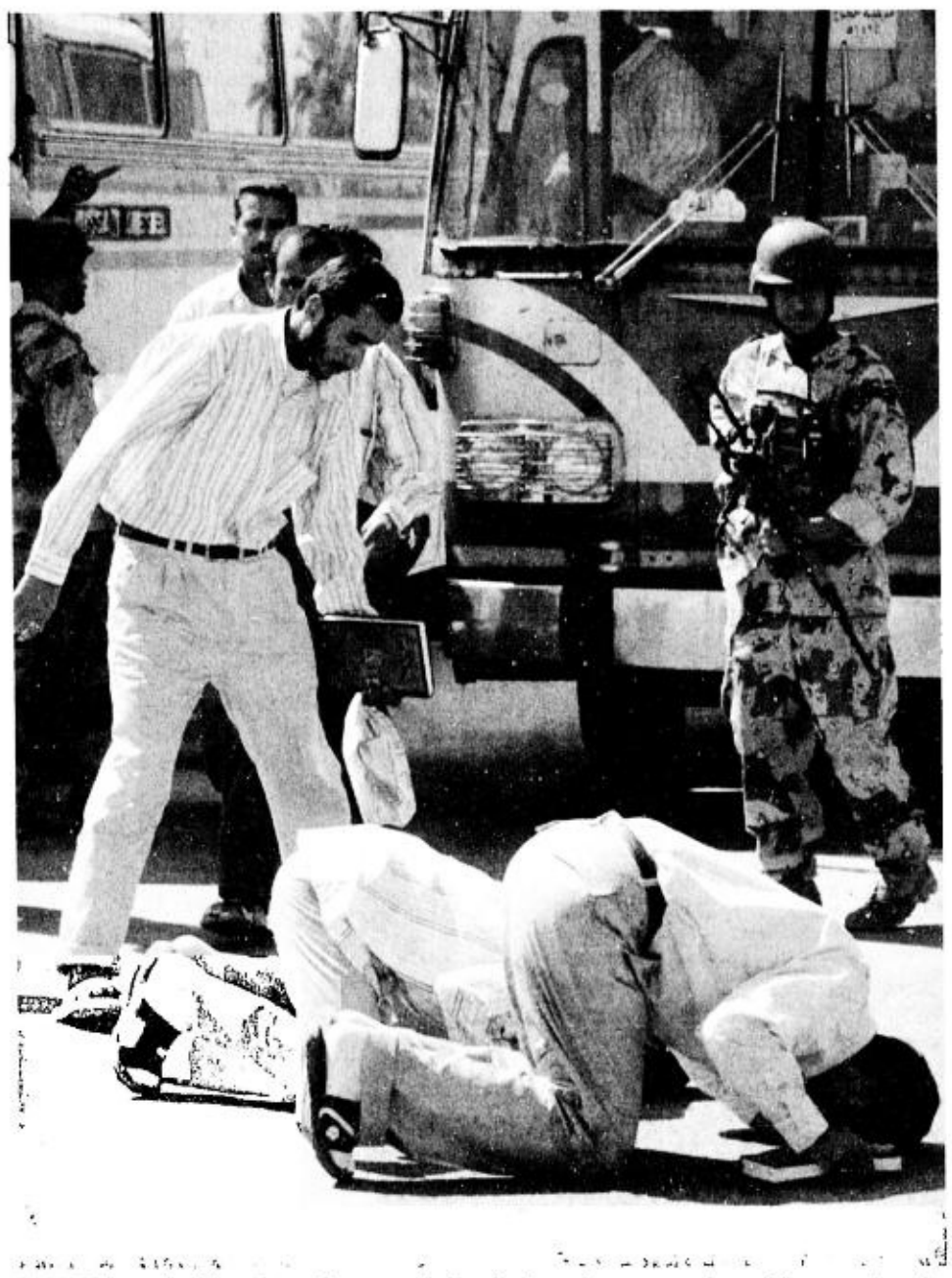
The UN chief's report was released at a time of heightened concern and social tensions in rich countries, particularly in North America and the European Union, in the face of an uncontrolled influx of illegal immigrants from poor countries.

The United States is considering sweeping immigration reform proposals, including building a huge border fence to stop the flow of illegal immigrants crossing the US border with Mexico.

The European Union is facing a similar influx of poor illegal immigrants from Africa via the Spanish Canary Islands.

"We are in the midst of a new migration era and international migration today is indeed a global phenomenon," Annan said. "Large numbers of people migrate in search for a better life, not only between neighboring countries or within a region, but to and from the uttermost ends of the earth."

Pointing to accumulating evidence of the benefits unleashed by global migration, he said: "It is no coincidence ... that many countries which not so long ago were primarily sources of migrants—for instance Ireland, several countries in southern Europe, the Republic of Korea and Chile—have developed spectacularly, and now boast thriving economies which make them an attractive destination for migrants." *AFP*



IRAQIS bow their heads on the ground shortly after they were released from a prison in Baghdad June 6. More than 500 Iraqi prisoners were released from several prisons in Iraq a day after Prime Minister Nur Maliki said he would release 2,500 prisoners with no clear evidence against them or who were mistakenly detained, in a move to help reach "national reconciliation." *(See story on Page A20.)* REUTERS

US troops accused of new civilian killings in Iraq

BAGHDAD—US TROOPS TUESDAY FACED fresh accusations of unlawful killings of civilians in Iraq.

The Iraqi Islamic Party, the main Sunni Arab political party, accused US forces of murdering more than two dozen Iraqis in a series of incidents across the country in May.

"The US forces have violated human rights many times across Iraq," said Omar al-Juburi, spokesperson for the human rights department of the party which is led by Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi.

In the latest in a string of allegations against US forces, Juburi said 29 Iraqis were killed in May in separate incidents involving US forces in the towns of Latifiyah and Yusifiyah, south of Baghdad, and in the capital itself.

"On May 13, US forces launched an air assault on a civilian car in Latifiyah and killed six people inside the car," Juburi told reporters.

"On the same day US forces attacked with aircraft the house of a civilian, Saadun Mohsen Hassan, and killed seven of his family members."

Juburi said US forces carried out another air strike the next day on the house of Sheikh Yassin Saleh Shallal in the town of Yusifiyah, "killing 13 people, including women and children."

Three other Iraqis were killed in US raids in Baghdad, he said.

The nearby towns of Latifiyah and Yusifiyah have been the scene of increased insurgent activity and several US operations.

The new accusations come after a string of charges of atrocities by US forces in Iraq, including the alleged killings of 24 civilians by Marines in Haditha in November and another 11 civilians by soldiers last March in Ishaqi.

The US military has exonerated the soldiers involved in the Ishaqi killing from any wrongdoing, while the investigation into Haditha is ongoing.

For his part, Maliki reiterated his commitment Tuesday to get to the bottom of the Haditha case.

"We have set up a committee to look into this painful incident," the premier said. "We have already denounced the action as it is against human rights and was targeting innocent Iraqis—we are following the case."

In rebel violence on Tuesday at least 10 people were killed across Iraq.

Two men were killed and seven wounded as insurgents fired three mortars which crashed near the interior ministry building, security officials said.

In the restive town of Baquba, police found nine heads wrapped in black plastic bags and shoved in a cardboard box used to carry fruit on the highway outside the city.

Some of the heads were blindfolded and already decomposing, indicating the killings had taken place a few days back, police said.

Gunmen also shot dead Shaaban Abdel Kadhim, a local municipal representative for southern Baghdad's Al-Furat neighborhood, along with his two bodyguards Tuesday. *AFP*

'CIA knew where Nazi was hiding'

WASHINGTON—THE CIA TOOK no action after learning the pseudonym and whereabouts of the fugitive Holocaust administrator Adolf Eichmann in 1958, according to CIA documents released Tuesday that shed new light on the spy agency's use of former Nazis as informants after World War II.

The CIA was told by West German intelligence that Eichmann was living in Argentina under the name Clemens—a slight variation on his actual alias, Ricardo Klement—but did not share the information with Israel, which had been hunting for him for years, according to Timothy Naftali, a historian who examined the documents.

Two years later, Israeli agents abducted Eichmann in Argentina and flew him to Israel, where he was tried and executed in 1962.

The Eichmann papers are among 27,000 newly declassified pages released by the CIA to the National Archives under congressional pressure to make public files about former officials of Hitler's regime later used as American agents. *NYT*

Australian fossil mounds may show life over 3.4 B years ago

WASHINGTON — ODD-SHAPED MOUNDS of dirt in Australia may be fossils of the oldest life on Earth, created by billions of microbes more than 3 billion years ago, scientists say in a new report.

And these mounds are exactly the type of life astrobiologists are looking for on Mars and elsewhere.

A study published Thursday in the journal Nature gives the strongest evidence yet that the mounds dotting a large swath of western Australia are Earth's oldest fossils. The theory is that these are not merely dirt piles that formed randomly into odd shapes, but that ancient microbes burrowed in and built them.

"This is the pointy end of the fossil record; this is the first really compelling record," said study lead author Abigail Allwood, a researcher at the Australian Center for Astrobiology. "It's an ancestor of life. If you think that all life arose on this one planet, perhaps this is where it started."

The mounds come in different shapes—like egg cartons, swirls of frosting on cupcakes or waves on the ocean. They are called stromatolites and have been studied for a long time, but the big question has been if they were once teeming with life.

Allwood's research, which included examining thousands of the mounds and grouping them into seven subtypes, is the most comprehensive and compelling yet to say the answer is yes, according to a top expert not on her team.

"It is the best bet for the best evidence of the oldest life on Earth," said Bruce Runnegar, director of the Nasa Astrobiology Institute in Moffett Field, California. "These are too complicated to be attributed to nonbiological processes—but we don't know that for a fact."

Allwood said her study made the case for life solidly by looking at how the stromatolites fit with the rock formations around them, with each other, and what would have been happening on Earth at that time. One of the clinchers was putting them in seven repeating subtypes, which indicates they were not random.

"It's just the sheer abundance of material and to be able to put it all in context," Allwood said. *AP*

Mahathir accuses successor of betrayal

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA—FORmer Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday accused his handpicked successor, who reversed many of his decisions, of betraying his trust and coming close to stabbing him in the back.

In some of his harshest criticism against Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Mahathir said he "tolerated it as much as possible" and could no longer keep his grievances quiet.

Mahathir, who retired in 2003 after 22 years in power, said he was particularly hurt by claims that he had "finished all government money and the government was bankrupt" because of mega-infrastructure projects that marked his time in office.

"Having chosen him as my successor, I expect a reasonable degree of gratefulness," Mahathir told reporters.

"I'm in the habit of choosing the wrong people," Mahathir said, adding that in his lifetime, he has helped many people, "only for them to stab me in the back."

Asked if Abdullah has stabbed him in the back, Mahathir replied: "Minor bruises."

However, Mahathir would not openly say whether he regretted choosing Abdullah to succeed him instead of current Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak, whom Mahathir claimed had obtained more votes in the Cabinet to inherit the leadership.

MAHATHIR REUTERS

"One cannot tell what a person would do when the person is out of your control. I thought I had made the right choice," Mahathir said.

Mahathir added that he was not campaigning within the ruling United Malays National Organization to unseat Abdullah.

"I'm not capable of doing that," Mahathir said. "I cannot have him removed. I'm not going around campaigning to people ... (but) I would be failing in my duty as an ordinary citizen, as ex-PM, if I did not direct my attention" to issues affecting national interests. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Landless attack Brazil's Congress

BRASILIA—Hundreds of landless farmworkers armed with sticks and stones invaded Brazil's Congress on Tuesday, smashing windows and furniture to demand agrarian reform. The hourlong melee left injured 20 people—both demonstrators and congressional security guards. One guard suffered a fractured skull. About 300 members of the Movement for the Liberation of the Landless, or MLST, waved red flags and held up banners saying "Stop Criminalizing Social Movements." Hundreds of demonstrators were detained and taken by bus to the Brasilia's Nilson Nelson Sports Gymnasium, the police department said without providing precise numbers. *AP*

5 Korean workers abducted in Nigeria

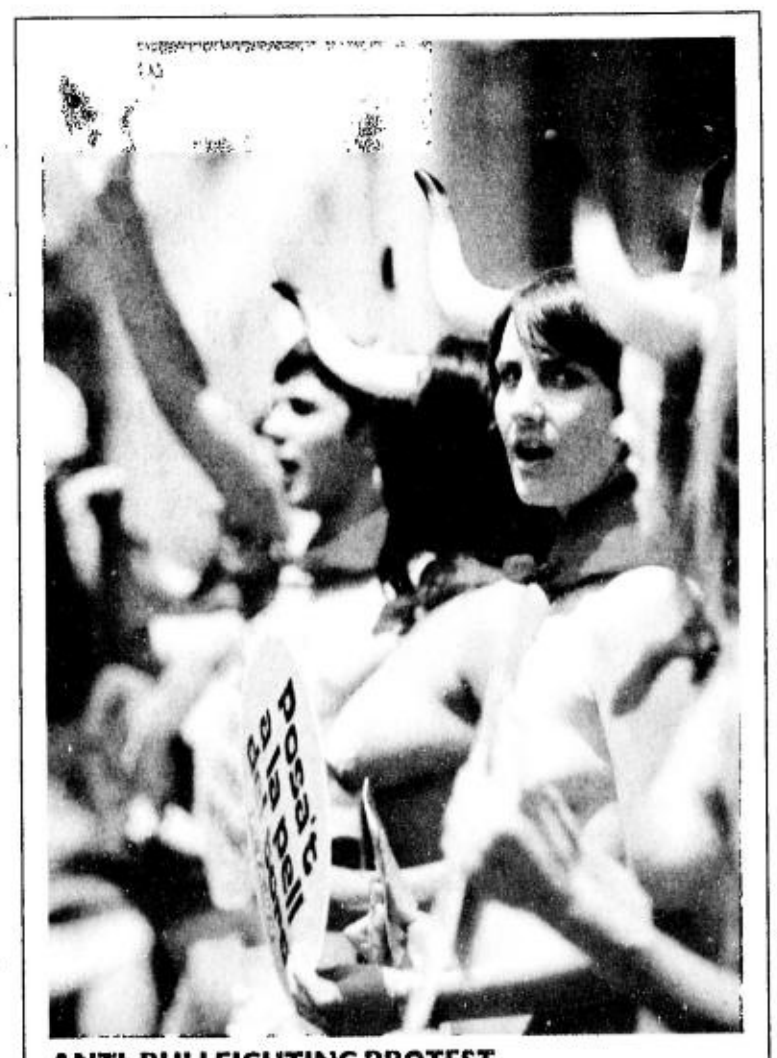
SEOUL—An unidentified armed group kidnapped five South Koreans and a Nigerian at an oil field in Nigeria on Wednesday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. The abduction occurred between midnight and 1 a.m. local time in Port Harcourt, Nigeria's southern oil hub, the ministry said. There were a total of 14 South Korean workers at the site, but the other nine escaped, the ministry said. Three of the South Koreans kidnapped are from Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co., and the other two are from the state-owned Korea Gas Corp., said the ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. *AP*

Hundreds arrested in Chile

SANTIAGO—Chilean police said they had arrested 376 people and 35 were injured during a one-day strike by students demanding education reforms that were largely agreed on Tuesday by political leaders. "It is all over except returning to class," said government communications minister Ricardo Lagos Weber, although students had yet to weigh in on the latest government concessions. Political leaders from left to right agreed to amend the Constitution of a provision dating back to the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. *AFP*

Terror suspects in Canada court

BRAMPTON, Ontario—Fifteen men and youths, suspected of planning attacks in Canada ranging from bombing buildings to beheading the prime minister, appeared in court on Tuesday amid tight security. Stephen Vikash Chand, 25, is said to have plotted to decapitate Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, according to his lawyer. An eight-page synopsis of the charges against the group said they planned to storm the Canadian parliament and take hostages to demand that Muslim prisoners be freed and that Canada withdraw troops from Afghanistan, defense lawyer Gary Batasar told AFP. If the demands were not met they would behead the hostages and the prime minister as well, he added. *AFP*



ANTI-BULLFIGHTING PROTEST
Nude protesters from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) stand outside the Spanish Embassy June 6 in Washington, DC to bring attention to the "bloody bullfights" during the "running of the bulls" in Spain each year. Peta expects more than 1,000 participants in Pamplona this year for the "Running of the Nudes," their answer to what they term the inhumane and cruel treatment of bulls. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iran's response to nuke offer elates US

VIENNA—THE UNITED STATES WELCOMED AS a positive sign Iran's cautious response to an international proposal to resolve the crisis over its disputed nuclear drive.

The United Nations nuclear watchdog meanwhile announced that it would issue a report Thursday on Iran's uranium enrichment activities—a key step in efforts to make a nuclear bomb.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana presented a package of incentives and multilateral talks in Tehran, hoping to persuade the Iranian leadership to suspend uranium enrichment.

Some western capitals had feared the proposals would be dismissed even before they were tabled.

But Iran's top national security official, Ali Larijani, said: "There are positive steps in the proposal, and there are also some ambiguities that should be cleared up."

Larijani called for more talks, while Solana said he had "good discussions" with the Iranian negotiator over the package drawn up by Britain, France and Germany and backed by the United States, Russia and China.

"Now that the proposal is on the table, I hope we will receive a positive response which will be satisfactory to both sides," he said after also meeting Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki before flying out of Tehran.

Solana spoke to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice after returning to Brussels, a US state department spokesperson said.

Solana told Rice "that he found the discussions very useful and constructive," said spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"The Iranians told him that they would consider the proposal but would need some time to review it. Mr. Solana said that he would be in contact with the Iranians in the coming days about the proposal," the spokesperson told reporters in Washington.

Larijani did not elaborate on what the "ambiguities" were, but Iran will undoubtedly have questions over the scope and duration of a nuclear suspension.

US President George W. Bush cautiously welcomed Iran's "positive" initial reaction to the international proposal.

"We will see if the Iranians take our offer seriously. The choice is theirs to make," the president said in Texas. "I want to solve this issue with Iran diplomatically."

"I have said the United States will come and sit down at the table with them, so long as they are willing to suspend their enrichment in a verifiable way," he said. "So it sounds like a positive response to me."

While being offered carrots, Iran also faces the stick of robust Security Council action, including a range of possible sanctions, if it rejects the offer and continues what the West fears is a covert weapons drive.

Although the United States has not ruled out military action, diplomats say it has helped sweeten the package by offering to lift certain sanctions if Iran agrees to an enrichment freeze. *AFP*

Now, you can build more than a strong mind and body.

When you take Pharmaton, you're not just strengthening your mind and body. You're also fueling the spirit of Gawad Kalinga, a nationwide movement that's bringing out heroes in all of us. Gawad Kalinga brings together families in need with companies, communities and individuals who want to help them build new homes and new lives.

To help, a portion of Pharmaton sales will go towards building GK homes for a community in Caloocan.

Isn't it nice to know that your multivitamin is also helping to build a better country for us all?

GAWAD KALINGA
www.gawadkalinga.org

Multivitamins + Minerals + Deanol + Ginseng Extract
Pharmaton®
www.pharmaton.ph

Boehringer Ingelheim

Iraq frees nearly 600 prisoners

BAGHDAD—ALMOST 600 PRISONERS WERE released in Iraq on Wednesday, state television reported, a day after new Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said a total of 2,500 would be freed to help foster national reconciliation.

It was one of the biggest such releases of prisoners held in Iraqi or American detention since US-led forces invaded the country three years ago to topple Saddam Hussein.

"I spent 16 months in jail without any specific reason. They only questioned me once, accusing me of funding terrorism," said one of more than 100 people freed in Baghdad.

He said he had been arrested by Iraqi forces and then handed over to the US-run Abu Ghraib prison.

"I'm happy to return to my family," added Youssef Khidr, 38, looking exhausted.

Most of those in detention are believed held on suspicion of involvement in the insurgency.

The move by Maliki appeared to be an attempt to shore up his own authority at a time when rivalries within his ruling Shiite Alliance have cast doubt over his effectiveness.

State television, citing the Justice Ministry, said a total of 594 people had been freed across Iraq.

Many of those in detention—estimated at more than 28,000—are from Saddam's once dominant Sunni community, which forms the backbone of an insurgency against the US-backed, Shiite-led government.

Maliki, who has pledged to heal sectarian wounds and crush the insurgency, said in a televised statement on Tuesday that the prisoner release would free those who had no clear evidence against them or had been detained mistakenly.

Initially, 500 people would be let out on Wednesday, he said, but did not give details. It was not immediately clear how many of them were in Iraqi or US custody.

Maliki had cited the release of those imprisoned without just cause as one of his priorities when his Cabinet took office in May. Such detentions, by Iraqi and US security forces, have been a major source of popular discontent. *Reuters*

Malaysia set to put first citizen in space

KUALA LUMPUR—THE UNITED STATES has the astronaut, China has the taikonaut, and now Malaysia has the "angkasawan," as the country with a mania for record-setting prepares to blast its first citizen into space.

Malaysia's determination to seek recognition on the international stage has already seen it scrape the skies—constructing the glittering Petronas Twin Towers which for a time was the world's tallest building.

A small Muslim-majority nation with big ambitions, it hopes the space project will be an inspiration for Muslims across the globe and recall the glory days of Islamic science and discovery.

The nationwide hunt to select the candidate who will hitch a ride on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station in October 2007 drew tens of thousands of hopefuls.

The three men and one woman who made the short list have spent a month going through their paces in Moscow, undergoing an intensive course in everything from Russian language and table manners to orbital mechanics.

A battery of tests and examinations will identify the best candidate and a backup astronaut, who will undergo 18 months of training in Star City, Moscow.

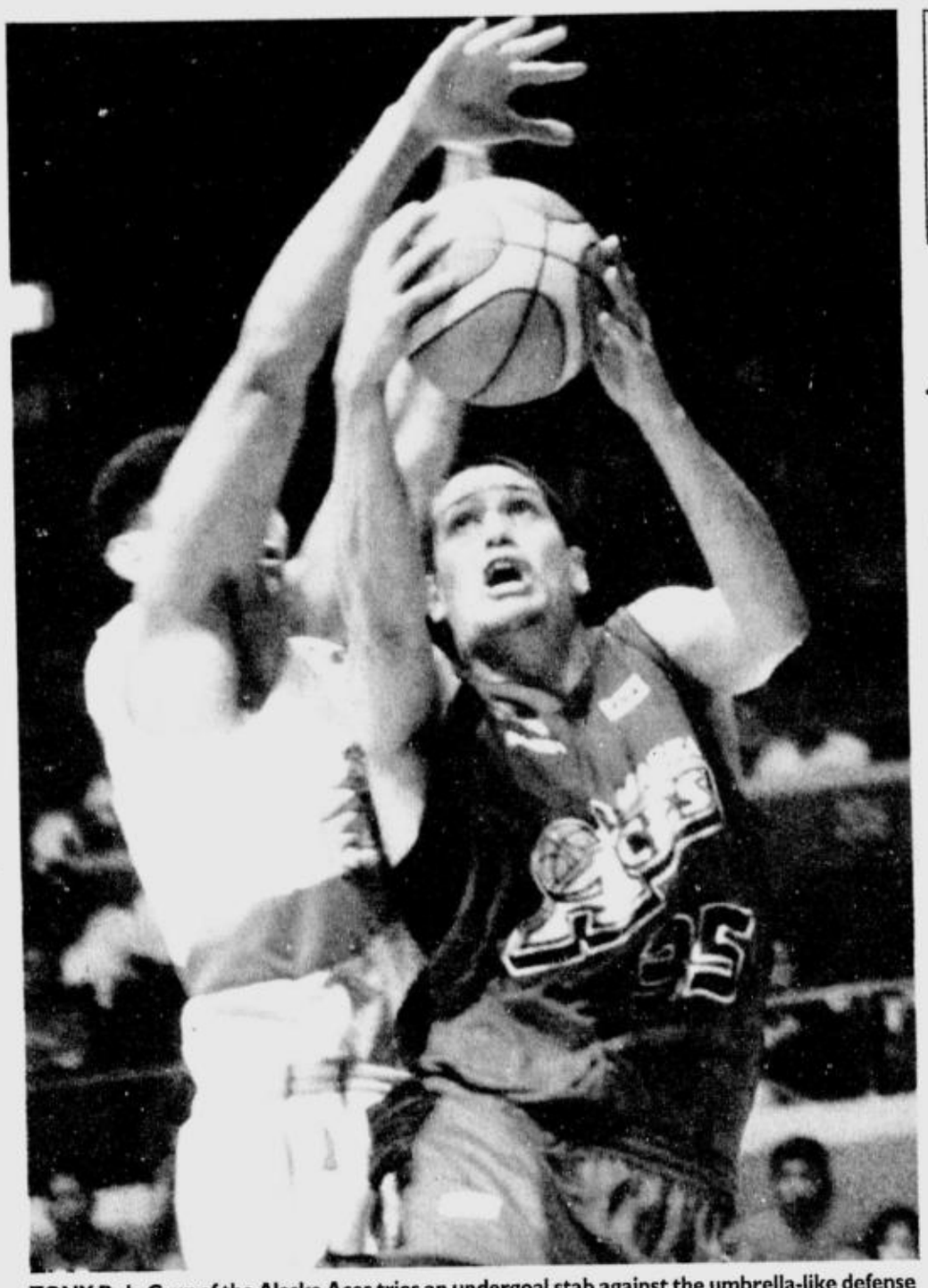
The chief of the National Space Agency, or Angkasa, Mazlan Othman said the program was an inspiration to young people in multicultural Malaysia, which strives for harmony among its ethnic Malay, Indian and Chinese communities. *AFP*

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



TONY Dela Cruz of the Alaska Aces tries an undergoal stab against the umbrella-like defense of Coca-Cola Tigers forward Billy Mamaril. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Toyota, Harbour title series on /A22

■ Rivera, Clutario pace Masters /A23

■ Federer gains French Open semifinals /A24

Alaska, Red Bull down q'final foes

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull
7:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska

By June Navarro

NIC BELASCO BEAT THE CLOCK with a three-pointer as Alaska completed a great escape act from 20 points down to nose out Coca-Cola, 95-94, at the start of the PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Willie Miller almost fumbled under pressure from John Arigo and Rafi Reavis but was able to find Belasco at the top of the arc for the game winner with two-tenths of a second left.

Enrico Villanueva missed a triple double by three feeds and Lordy Tugade scattered 22 points as Red Bull tripped Barangay Ginebra, 93-86, for a similar 1-0 lead in their separate series.

Villanueva scored 10 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while issuing seven assists as Red Bull showed complete mastery in its series-opening game with the Gin Kings.

Belasco had earlier muffed three attempts as the Aces pressed their attack after trailing, 57-77, at the end of the third quarter.

"I don't feel exactly happy with the way we played but my hat's off to Nic," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, who will shoot for a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series tomorrow.

"He's been a savior for us the whole conference. He made our team a contender," added Cone.

Belasco combined with Miller and Mike Cortez in pulling the Aces out of a deep pit and spoiling a big game by Johnny Abarrientos, who led the Tigers with a conference-high 16 points on top of four rebounds, six assists and one steal.

Abarrientos, the 1996 MVP, however, missed two free throws that could have clinched it for the Tigers.

"It's quite ironic Johnny would miss those shots," said Cone. "I know him so well and he's been responsible for my success as a coach."

Cone and the Aces dominated the league in the '90s, winning nine of 10 titles with a lineup led by the once flashy Abarrientos.

Sloppy and easy going almost throughout, the Aces got the surprise of their lives when the Tigers shifted from their usual low-post offensive routine.

"The game plan was to focus on Ali (Peek). We we're prepared to shut him down but they (Tigers) changed the ploy and it really surprised us," said Cone.

The scores:

ALASKA 95—Miller 20, Belasco 20, Cortez 18, Hugnatan 12, Dela Cruz 12, Cariaso 6, Ferriols 4, Thoss 3, Wilson 0, Laure 0.

COCA-COLA 94—Abarrientos 16, Arigo 15, Reavis 13, Wainwright 8, Peek 8, Miranda 7, Mamaril 7, Singson 7, Antonio 7, Francisco 6, Capati 0, Morano 0.

Quarters: 25-32, 40-48, 57-77, 95-94.

Ford

IT'S NOW EASIER TO OWN THIS SUV THAN TO MAKE THIS AD.

FORD EVEREST SPECIAL OFFERS FOR JUNE

LOW DOWNPAYMENT FINANCING DEALS

Model	SRP	DP	48 mo.
Everest 4x2 AT	1,115,000	150,000	24,500
Everest 4x2 AT WITH LEATHER SEATS	1,150,000	150,000	25,500
Everest 4x2 MT	1,065,000	150,000	23,500

Discounted price for cash transactions:

Everest 4x2 AT : ₱1,080,000

Everest 4x2 AT with leather seats : ₱1,115,000

Image shown: Ford Everest Summit. Freight charges for Visayas and Mindanao not included.

*Subject to Ford Credit approval. Promo valid until June 30, 2006. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1638, series of 2006.

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No. 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648, Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel. Nos.: 952-9112, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel. No. 744-2222, Fax No. 722-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No. 723-7029 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No. 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline: 860-8888, Fax No. 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel. No. 562-5555 Fax No.: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos.: 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax: 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Telelax: 717-1390 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111, Fax No. (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No. (075) 522-2222, Telelax: (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No. (049) 562-9186, Telelax: (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2048, Fax: (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-9100, Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel. No. (034) 432-2151, Telelax: (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No. (033) 321-3352, Telelax No. (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No. (088) 855-8811, Telelax: (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No. (082) 234-1111, Fax No. (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel. No. 635-1251

www.ford.com.ph

Toyota-Harbour title series on

HARBOUR Centre's Ryan Araña goes for a lay-up against Montaña's Eric dela Cuesta during their semifinal matchup. RYAN LIM

GAMES TODAY *(Olivarez Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Montaña (Knockout for 3rd)
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Harbour Centre (Game 1-Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

LOOKS LIKE BOTH TEAMS HAVE sized each other up quite well.

Toyota Otis and Harbour Centre, after taking opposite routes to get to the PBL Unity Cup's last dance, clearly have taken their respective tasks to heart going into Game 1 of the best-of-five title series today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

"We both play a perimeter game," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas. "We're just equal in terms of match-ups. Our worry is that they always come out strong and we have to find a way to contain their strong start."

Portmasters' coach Jorge Gallent, on the other hand, knows what it is they're doing right.

"We're passing the ball well," noted Gallent. "We have to continue sharing the ball. For us to beat Toyota, we have to continue playing as a team."

The series opener starts at 4 p.m., immediately after Rain or Shine and Montaña fight it out for the crumbs earlier at 2 o'clock.

Toyota topped the elimination round with a 10-4 record, then ousted defending champion Rain or Shine with a surprising 3-0 sweep in the semifinals.

Harbour Centre took the longer route after finishing sixth in the eliminations with a 6-8 slate. Yet impressively, the young squad overcame Granny Goose's twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals, before pulling off another upset by edging Montaña, 3-1, in the semis.

Collegiate stars LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo will continue to be the focal points of Harbour Centre's game on both ends. The duo, after all, lifted the Portmasters from near-bottom all the way to the Finals.

But the Sparks' steady run the past months remains to be Gallent's main concern.

"They have the advantage because they're consistent at being number one," he said. "They've been on top the whole conference so that team really knows how to win."

The Sparks have also shown they're not a one-man gang, with Fil-Am Joe Devance, a top contender for the Most Valuable Player award, willingly sharing the scoring chores with Boyet Bautista, JV Casio, Aaron Aban and Jonathan Aldave.

"It's important that we're injury-free," said Alas. "We also have to make quick adjustments during the series."

NAS regular venue of 82nd NCAA season

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHletic Association (NCAA) gave the Ninoy Aquino Stadium a passing grade after league officials inspected the venue the other day in preparation for its 82nd season.

The stadium will be the regular venue of both the basketball and volleyball competitions after the oldest collegiate tournament in the country opens June 24 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We're very satisfied and happy we're returning to the venue after seven years," said NCAA Management Committee (Mancom) chair Bernie Atienza of host school College of St. Benilde.

The last time the NCAA played at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium was in 1999. It transferred to the age-old Rizal Memorial Coliseum in 2000 before holding its games at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City last year.

The NCAA signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), which runs both the Ninoy and Rizal stadiums, for the use of the facility.

CAR set to return Palaro medal after discovering cheating

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY school board is returning one of the medals the Cordillera Administrative Region won in this year's Palarong Pambansa in Naga City after discovering that the winning athlete used another team player's identity.

The Department of Education ordered an investigation after a sports columnist of a local weekly informed them that a 16-year-old player competing in the arnis event last month was not the athlete in the official lineup.

The substitute athlete won the event's silver medal. CAR also took home two gold medals from arnis, which was introduced only this year.

Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia, chair of the city council's committee on education, told reporters on Wednesday that the city government will take the high road because this was a "tainted victory" for Baguio.

Tenefrancia said both the arnis coach and the questioned athlete, who had just graduated from high school and is now a college freshman here, are banned from representing the city in any sports competition.

The CAR took home a total of seven gold medals from arnis, taekwondo, long jump and the 4 x 400-meter relay.

DepEd sources said the arnis team's top player had fallen ill on the week of the games, and school officials added the beleaguered athlete's name to the team's lineup without correcting the entry in their official form. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Iligan five steps up bid, trims Iloilo

STANDINGS	W	L
North Division		
Bacchus/Harbour	6	4
Spring-Parañaque	5	4
Forward Taguig	5	5
Batang Tagaytay	4	5
Pangasinan	3	8
Laguna-Sta. Rosa	0	11
South Division		
Ozamiz Cotta	8	2
Iligan Crusaders	8	3
Pagadian	7	3
North Cotabato	6	4
Valencia	4	5
Iloilo Warriors	3	5

ILIGAN CITY—THE FIREFLY Lightings-backed Iligan Crusaders kept their hope of gaining the second seed in the southern division alive by spilling the visiting Iloilo Warriors, 86-78, Tuesday in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the packed MSU-IIT gym here.

Ronnie Matias and Derrick Hubalde sparkled in the second period to help Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders outgun the Warriors, 28-12, and wipe out a five-point deficit.

Matias scored 12 of his 14 points while Hubalde made two triples in the second quarter en route to their eighth win in 11 games in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Iligan can clinch second spot by beating the Pagadian Explorers, now ranked third at 7-3, in their ongoing match. A win would give Pagadian second spot.

Defending champion Ozamiz has already clinched the top southern berth with an 8-2 record.

The Warriors got off to a blistering start, taking a 26-21 lead after 10 minutes. But the outside-inside combination of Hubalde and Matias turned the game around.

Big men Francis Sanz and Ruel Balgos failed to rescue the Warriors, who dropped to 3-5.

The scores:

ILIGAN 86—Hubalde 21, Matias 14, Omiping 11, Go 10, Nicdao 8, Tajonera 8, Sagad 4, Kalaw 4, Baguio 3, Ilagan 2, Taguines 1, Ayodelle 0, Oliveros 0, Canoy 0.

ILOILO 78—Sanz 18, Balgos 15, Leonida 14, Singco 13, Senierez 10, Bautista 5, Sencil 3, Sina-on 2, Poral 0, Unarce 0.

Quarters: 21-26, 49-39, 69-55, 86-78.

FVR, Romero to open 2006 Seniors golf

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos and Harbour Centre chair Reghis Romero have been invited to grace the opening of the 2006 Philippine Seniors Amateur Golf Championships which fires off June 14 at Riviera's Langer course.

Ramos, a sports buff and golf patron, and Romero, whose Harbour Centre is this year's presenter of the event, are expected to hit the ceremonial drive along with National Golf Association of the Phils. (NGAP) president Secretary Leandro Mendoza to kick off the three-day tournament exclusively for the country's golfing elders from various age groups.

The centerpiece event is the Open division where Cangolf's Rolly Viray sets out as the player to beat after ruling last year's edition at Mt. Malarayat.

Other players fancied to crowd Viray for top honors are his teammates in the 2005 Asia-Pacific Men's Senior Amateur Golf Champion team—former national amateur champion Francis Gaston, Philippine sports commissioner Richie Garcia, Clifford Celdran, Caloy Coscoluella, and Iggy Clavecilla, also the 2005 APGC individual champion.

Also invited to lend prestige and honor to the event, conducted by the NGAP and backed by Mizuno, Nestea and Summit mineral water, are former NGAP presidents Benny Gopez and Rod Feliciano.

The Open category, for players 55 years old and above, will be played over 54 holes, according to tournament committee chair and NGAP vice president Danny Pizarro.

Registration ends on June 12. Entry fee is pegged at P4,000 for local players and $100 for foreign participants, inclusive of golf carts.

2006 WORLD SLASHER CUP II AT THE BIG DOME JUNE 13, 15 & 17

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS : 2006 World Slasher Cup I defending co-champions pose proudly with 2005 Miss International, Precious Lara Quigaman. L-R are Edmund Yasay, representing Philip Chlongbian, Dicky Lim, Miss Quigaman, Nene Abello, Joel Fernando and Chris Nesmith. Behind them is the champion's prize of a 2006 Brand new Nissan Titanium 4 x 4 pick-up.

All the proverbial roads will lead to the Araneta Coliseum when the 2006 World Slasher Cup II Invitational 8-cock Derby takes center stage at the Big Dome on June 13, 15 &17 to be hosted by the Pintakasi of Champions, in cooperation with Thunderbird Platinum Power Pellets.

Billed as the "biggest cockfighting event in the world", the World Slasher Cup is now on its 43rd year and is highly revered by Filipino cockfighters for its contribution to the wide acceptance and immense popularity of gamefowl breeding and competition in the Philippines today.

Those set to join the tournament are advised to make their cockhouse reservations early by calling Boy San Pedro or Dong Lamoste at tel. nos. 911-3101 loc. 8352/8361 or thru 911-2928. Weight limits for all entries are 1.9 to 2.5 kgs. Strictly blind computer matching will be enforced. The tournament is governed by Araneta Coliseum derby rules duly approved by the Games and Amusement Board headed by Chairman Eric Buhain and likewise endorsed as a "must-see tourist attraction" by the Department of Tourism under Secretary Ace Durano.

This year's defending champions are prominent gamefowl masters, Nene Abello and Chris Nesmith, Dicky Lim, Philip Chiongbian and the Fil-Am tandem of Joel Fernando and Ferdie Patam.

Already in town are challengers from the United States including, Roger Roberts of Georgia and 2001 World Slasher champion, Johnny Moore of Tennessee, Joe Stanfield of California and Johnny Philips of Georgia; Sedfrey Linsangan, Vic Diez and Mar Gatmaitan of Guam; Monirubo Tanaguchi of Japan; Kali Casco, Bobby Casco and Tammy Madela of Hawaii; Baby Evangelista, Edwin Tagle, Domi Fernandez, Henry Navarro, Ed Alfafara, Tom Quiwa and Speedy Gonzales all of California.

The Home Team will be led by the defending champions together with other former titlists including Nene Araneta, Peping Cojuangco, Eddie Araneta, Peping Ricafort, Boy Marzo . Patrick 'Idol' Antonio, Rudy Salud, Lito Quillaza, Biboy Enriquez, Cito Alberto, Esting Teopaco, Claude Bautista, Ito Ynares, Rudy Albano and William Co, among others.

Boxing champion Manny Pacquiao is likewise expected to field an entry.

The 2-cock elimination round is set for Tuesday, June 13 while the 2-cock semifinal round is scheduled on Thursday, June 15. The championship 4-cock finals are set for Saturday, June 17. All entries are required to register at least 2 points to qualify for the championship.

A giant silver cup symbolic of world supremacy in the sport of cockfighting will be awarded the champion whose name and entry will be permanently etched in the tournament's Honor Roll of champions.

ADVT.

Open letter to MVP

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DEAR MR. MVP,

I write in behalf of Dayong, the scout coach of Purefoods.

I know Purefoods is a rival of your Talk 'N Text team in the PBA but knowing you, that's beside the point.

The point is, you are in sports because you love sports as much as your late father did. Your father's Traders Royal Bank baseball team was a byword in another sporting era. I covered TRB's exploits then while I was still with the Bulletin.

But to get to the point, Dayong seeks your help.

No, he will not leave Purefoods and intends to join Talk 'N Text although, come to think of it, the idea wouldn't be dismissed outright should it present itself in the future.

I know that you know that nothing is permanent in this world.

Dayong's son, Mayo, was brought to the Makati Medical Center (MMC) on May 22, suffering from fever since May 14.

Mayo would shortly be diagnosed as being afflicted with Kawasaki Disease, a rare illness affecting mostly children aged 5 and below. Strangely enough, Mayo should have been spared by the disease as he turned 9 on May 2.

God, indeed, does things the mysterious way.

Despite his affliction, Mayo still found the courage to try to visit Eugene Tejada, the injured Purefoods player who is also confined at the Makati Med, on the fourth day of Mayo's confinement.

He was as concerned as everybody else over Tejada's condition.

Although Mayo, wearing a sanitary mask, wasn't allowed entry to Tejada's 9th floor room for reasons known only to Tejada's mom, Mayo's bravery earned him plaudits from those who learned about it—including Mayo's battery of nurses on the 8th floor.

On May 31, Mayo was discharged but not after Dayong—with help from relatives and friends—paid nearly P250,000 in hospital/doctors' bills.

On June 2, Mayo, upon routine checkup of his heart (most Kawasaki Disease patients suffer from heart ailment), was instantly re-admitted after doctors found coronary artery disorders.

On June 5, the hospital wanted Dayong to pay P220,000.

On June 6, Dayong wrote Dominic Ordula, internal manager of the hospital's Credit and Collection Department, a promissory note.

In his letter to Mr. Ordula, Dayong said he'd pay the P220,000 once the financial help from PCSO arrives—not to mention the pledges of support from relatives and friends.

The letter had been duly noted, endorsed and signed by Dr. Dennis Garcia, Mayo's lead physician. (If Dr. Garcia wasn't acting as guarantor, what is?)

To his shock, Dayong's plea was rejected outright by Ordula. Dayong quoted Ordula as telling him: *"Kung ako, kokolektahin ko lahat sa iyo ito!* ('If you ask me, I would collect all of this from you!')"

From June 2 to June 5, Mayo's bills had reached nearly P280,000.

Why would Dayong do an ego-deflating promissory note if he had the money?

He is poor, but he will pay. Ask Ryan Gregorio, Dayong's head coach at Purefoods.

Anyway, I can understand Ordula. Just doing his job.

No guarantor, no promissory note.

Dayong was just wondering: Was Dr. Garcia's duly signed endorsement of Dayong letter not considered the act of a guarantor?

Dayong said, "Part of Mr. Ordula's job, aside from collecting, is to be rude."

Dayong said he was shooed away like a beggar.

When your son is gravely ill and you encounter people like Ordula, sing "My Way" if not "If I Were a Rich Man"?

Dayong left. Just left. Walking back to Mayo's room, he saw a glassed frame tucked to the wall near an elevator: "Healing with a Heart."

If Ordula, apparently trained to be a heartless referee, throws out Mayo for failure to pay P220,000 ASAP, God help Dayong.

Mr. MVP, in sports, MVP means Most Valuable Player.

Mr. MVP, Dayong also calls your customer at Room 873 MVP—Most Valuable Patient.

Dayong has another MVP on standby: PCSO—Most Valuable Partner. *Parang maong, di kumukupas.*

Till here, Mr. MVP. More power to both your TNT and MMC.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Torre grabs share of lead

Filipino GM posts 2nd straight win in San Marino

GRANDMASTER GM EUGENE TORRE BESTED UNTITLED DUTCHman Daan Brandenburg of the Netherlands for his second straight win and a share of the lead with 23 others after the second round Tuesday of the 2nd San Marino international chess tournament in the Republic of San Marino.

The 26th-seeded Torre (Elo 2617) prevailed with the white pieces over Brandenburg (2326) and will now play International Master Mikulas Manik (Elo 2450) of Slovakia.

Manik stunned the Philippines' No. 1 player, Mark Paragua (2617) in one of the earliest concluded matches in the third round late Wednesday.

Sixth seed GM Vadim Milov (Elo 2625) of Switzerland and No. 31 GM Miso Cebalo (Elo 2506) of Croatia also posted their second straight wins at the expense of newly installed Filipino IM Oliver Dimakiling (Elo 2452) and NM Rolando Nolte (Elo 2372), respectively.

In other matches involving Filipino players, reigning National Open champion NM Darwin Laylo and Fide Master Wesley So drew their matches against Moldovan GM Dmitry Svetushkin (Elo 2552) and Dutch GM Karel Van Der Weide (Elo 2482), respectively.

The 12-year-old So, who gained 18 Elo rating points—the most by any Filipino—in the recent Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, also halved the point with 16-year-old Ukrainian GM Yuriy Kuzubov in the opening round.

Also with 2.0 points in the 148 man Open A division were top seed GM Sergei Tiviakov (Elo 2669) of the Netherlands, No. 2 GM Alexander Areshchenko of Ukraine, No. 9 GM Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia, No. 10 GM Jaan Ehlvest of Estonia, No. 15 GM Varuzhan Akobian (Elo 2575) of the United States and No. 17 GM Merab Gagunashvili of Georgia.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

TORRE: Frontrunner

FIL-AUSSIE Caoili grabs limelight in the recent Chess Olympiad because of her charms.

2 GMs fight over Arianne's attention

REMEMBER ARIANNE BO Caoili?

The Fil-Aussie, who once played board 1 for the Philippine women's team in the Chess Olympiad, was in the limelight again in the recent world chessfest in Turin, Italy.

But not because of her brilliance on the chess board.

Caoili, who now calls Australia's Sun Coast home and played board 3 in the Turin chess Olympiad for her adopted country, was at the center of a punching incident between two male grandmasters, one of them the normally placid world No. 3 from Armenia.

The story and Caoili's photograph were prominently featured in the popular website Chessbase.com and in some newspapers after the incident, in which her GM suitor punched the Armenian GM in a fit of jealousy.

An account in the website said Caoili was partying with the other players after Day 11 of the Olympiad when the suitor, English GM David Gormally, confronted GM Levon Aronian of Armenia.

Gormally, who played board 4 for England, reportedly got into a brief nasty verbal exchange with Aronian before punching the Armenian.

According to the British Chess Magazine, Gormally got annoyed after the pretty Caoili opted to dance with Aronian.

The furor Gormally created later forced the English delegation to send the GM back home immediately.

Caoili refused to speak with the reporters covering the Olympiad.

With a report from Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Rivera, Clutario pace Masters

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ASIAN GAMES CHAMPION BIBOY Rivera averaged 242.75 with a total of 971 Tuesday night to lead the men's Open Masters qualifying of the 35th PBC-Boysen International tenpin bowling championships at the Green Valley Lanes.

A member of the national team that won the doubles gold during the Busan Asiad in 2002, Rivera came up with lines of 279-225-209-258 to lead local bets in the Masters which starts on June 16.

Rivera, the 2004 Hong Kong International Open champ, paced 2002 World Cup titlist CJ Suarez, who scored 217-242-257-226 for 942 and a 235.50 average, and Markwin Tee (227-236-238-233) who tallied 934 and a 233.50 average.

Chester King, the other half of that Busan Asiad doubles triumph, automatically qualified as the defending champion in the event which serves as the preliminaries of the Philippine Masters Cup, the sixth leg of the ABF Tour.

Liza Clutario, Southeast Asian Games Masters gold winner, took the lead in the women's Open Masters qualifying with a 234.50 average after a 219-207-233-279 series.

Irene Benitez normed 223.50 to place second, while Apple Posadas ranked third. Rounding out the top nine in the locals are Holly Josef (221.25), Elaine Elorencio (220.50), Sheena Go (210), 1997 SEAG champ Jojo Canare (208.50) and Trixie de Luna (198.50).

Defending champion Hsin Yi Tsai of Chinese Taipei earned the top seed in the women's Masters, although organizers feared she might not show up.

RP Team campaigners Marjo Reyes (195), Cecilia Yap (187.50), Ditas Red (186.25) Kathlynn Lopez (184.50) also made it to the Masters as part of the mixed foreign and local bunch.

The Ladies Masters lineup will be composed of the defending champion, eight locals, eight foreigners, seven qualifiers from the mixed pool and two from the Desperado squad.

CJ Suarez trails Biboy Rivera in men's Masters qualifying. PDI FILE PHOTO

Lady Archers stay unbeaten

GAMES MONDAY *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
12 n.n.—San Sebastian vs FEU
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson

DESIREE HERNANDEZ AND THAI import Kanchana Jindarat formed a two-sided battering ram for La Salle yesterday and the Lady Archers pummeled Lyceum, 25-14, 25-16, 25-20, for their ninth straight win in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The 5-foot-8 Hernandez and Jindarat, 5-foot-10, made good use of their advantage in height on both ends as La Salle inched closer to finals berth with a 9-0 card.

La Salle flaunted its might right from the opening set of their semifinal encounter and the Lady Pirates never got to counter as Lyceum was shoved closer to elimination by dropping its third straight game and sixth overall in 10 matches.

San Sebastian improved to 6-4 after a 25-19, 25-27, 27-25, 25-18 decision of Adamson in the second game.

Cherry Rose Macatangay's game-high 26 points went to naught as Adamson lost for the third time in nine games.

Hernandez and Jindarat finished with 13 points each on near flawless setups by Reiea Saet. The Thai, though, scored all her points on kills, while Hernandez connected on 10 spikes.

Michelle Datuin and Manilla Santos shone for La Salle. *Marc Anthony Reyes, with a report from Lawrence Kionisala*

Bobby Pacquiao ready to defend regional title

REIGNING WBC CONTINENTAL Americas super featherweight champ Bobby Pacquiao has vowed to be his own man after his fight with Kevin Kelley this Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

The younger brother of Manny Pacquiao gets his much-cherished coming-out ring party when he takes on the durable Kelly in the first defense of his WBC regional title underneath the Miguel Cotto-Paulie Malignaggi clash at the famed Madison Square Garden, home of the New York Knicks.

"I have sparred more than 100 rounds for this fight against tough fighters as Israel Vasquez and Gerson Guerrero. I'm as ready as can be," said Pacquiao.

Bobby said he wants people to refer to him not just simply as "the brother of Manny Pacquiao," but one who can stand on the merits of his own ring accomplishments.

Solar Sports airs the fight starting at 10 a.m. as well as the Miguel Cotto-Paulie Malignaggi mainer. Solar will also air the Antonio Tarver-Bernard Hopkins light heavyweight championship in Atlantic City.

Kelley, a fellow southpaw known as the "Flushing Flash," is on a four-bout win streak since being stopped by Marco Antonio Barrera in 2003. He also boasts of having faced big names as Erik Morales, Derrick Gainer and Prince Naseem Hamed. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

POC wants new polls for Tatap, softball

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMmittee executive board decided yesterday to ask the troubled associations of table tennis and softball to hold their respective elections and end their protracted leadership disputes once and for all.

POC vice president, Rep. Monico Puentevella said the two associations concurred with the decision to conduct the elections the soonest possible time using the guidelines the POC arbitration committee had recommended.

"There is a common sentiment among all the contending parties to finally resolve things," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. "We are confident we can get this with and get on with sports development."

The Table Tennis Association of the Philippines has been rocked by accusations that it illegally reelected its president Vic Valbuena early this year. The issue was brought to the POC by former Tatap secretary general Oscar Santilices.

On the other hand, the leadership of the Amateur Softball Association-Philippines is being disputed by two factions. One is being led by president Harry Angping and the other by executive vice president Boy Codiñera, who has already elected a board led by former Asaphil head Mario Maymundo.

Meanwhile, Puentevella said that the Philippine Sports Commission just might get a "blessing in disguise" with the Senate and House bicameral committee set to reenact the 2005 budget. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Guidicelli captures 1st TC race

A MORE CONFIDENT MATTEO Guidicelli of Velocity Motors stole the limelight from the veterans as he grabbed the lead in the Group 3 division of the San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championship yesterday at the Subic International Raceway.

With a runner-up finish in Round 3 followed by his first major touring car win in the afternoon race, the 16-year-old Guidicelli emerged the new leader with 49 points.

"Finally, I got a better feel of the car but I still have to learn a lot. Touring car is much different from karting and I was just lucky that things went my way in this race," said Guidicelli, who's backed up by Penshoppe, Swatch, Rudy Project, Pepsi and Animax.

Guidicelli said the feat was a big confidence booster in his bid to retain his RP leg crown in the forthcoming 2006 Asian Karting Open Championship set June 9-11 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

GUIDICELLI: Breakthrough win

Benitez shows way

THE JET RACING TEAM, LED BY Javi Benitez and Vencer John Suba, bagged two wins and a runner-up finish recently in the third leg of the 2006 Shell-Cali Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Benitez booked a runner-up finish behind bitter rival John Alvarez for 148 points, good for the solo lead in the Junior ROK class. Alvarez, despite the win, only has a total of 143 points.

"I'm still happy with it (runner-up trophy), it was a good learning experience I could use in the coming Asian Karting Race," said Benitez, whose fastest lap was 45.288 seconds. He totaled 14 minutes and 26.818 seconds or merely 0.380 of a second behind Alvarez in the 20-lap race.

Suba, meanwhile, delivered the victories for JeT Racing by ruling the Formula SL and Mini Rok classes. Suba turned back older rivals Samantha Santiago and Mars de los Reyes.

Cebuana MSSL champion

IN A REMARKABLE SHOW OF stamina and determination, Cebuana Lhuillier won five tough games in one day to clinch the championship of the recently concluded 2006 Manila Slo-Pitc Softball League (MSSL).

Cebuana capped its determined run by downing Meralco twice in the title playoffs as Jean Henri Lhuillier scored one home run each in his team's 15-5 and 14-10 victories.

Team Cebuana advanced to the finals by crushing Motorola, 22-8, and sister team Pera Padala, 23-14, and Handle Bar, 10-3, in the semis.

Meralco, on the other hand, disposed of Handle Bar in the quarterfinals, 12-5, to gain a twice-to-beat advantage in the playoffs.

SPORTSWATCH

Mitra asserts Super Junior moto mastery

DEFENDING CHAMPION JERICK MITRA OF CALTEX REVTEX-OAKLEY team left no room for mistake to rule the just concluded last leg of the 2006 Super Junior Motocross Series in Sto. Domingo, Albay. Mitra, 2005 FIM Asian Supercross junior titlist, turned the annual race into his own private show, dominating the first and last heats of the 65 cc class to fortify his status as the country's best junior rider. The 10-year-old Nueva Ecija lad said the victory will be a big boost to his title-retention bid in the 2006 Asian FIM Supercross Series this year.

LPC cockfest: 120 fights today, Thursday

WITH 120 FIGHTS ON TAP, THE MUCH-AWAITED FASTEST WIN ONE-COCK Ulutan starts at 8 a.m. today at the Las Piñas Coliseum with Jessie Banas and Sherwin Amposta of Cavite as hosts. A total guaranteed prize of P200,000 will be divided among the top 10 placers, said coliseum manager Alex Tobias. Each fight winner will also get a bonus of P1,500. Last month's event drew 137 entries with Lito Atan of Manila registering the fastest winning time of 12.05 seconds with his entry Diego Sierra.

Jet ski final leg reset to June 24

THE ORGANIZING JETSPORTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (JSAP) decided to postpone the staging of the 2006 Petron Jetski National Series to June 24 still at the Subic Waterfront Beach. JSAP president Dong Arcilla and Race Director Sonny Yalung explained that the original June 10 schedule has to be reset to give visiting riders from the Iloilo Watercraft Association and the Davao JetSports Association time to prepare for the event. Active jet ski riders and new enthusiasts intending to compete in the national series can call up Networx Jetsports at tel. no. 413-3109 or may log on at www.networxjetsports.com.

SPORTS

Federer gains French Open semis

ROGER Federer's dominance has left almost everyone playing in his shadows. AFP

PARIS—ROGER FEDERER'S EIGHT CONSECUTIVE TRIPS TO the semifinals at Grand Slam tournaments is the second-longest streak in the Open era.

It's not, however, the accomplishment he's aiming for. Federer wants two more match victories at the French Open so he can be the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four majors in a row.

And if he really has his way, Federer will be across the net from defending champion Rafael Nadal in Sunday's final.

"Yeah, I'd like to play him," Federer said. "Look, I think we all would love to see me playing Rafa in the finals."

First things first, though. After beating Croatia's Mario Ancic, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, the top-ranked Federer must face No. 3 David Nalbandian in the semifinals. Nalbandian defeated No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, to reach his second French Open semifinal.

Nalbandian—a semifinalist at all four majors and the 2002 Wimbledon runner-up—won six of his first seven career matches against Federer, but the Swiss star is 5-1 against the Argentine since.

In Wednesday's quarterfinals, No. 2 Nadal faces Novak Djokovic of Serbia-Montenegro, while No. 4 Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia plays Julien Benneteau of France.

Federer has won seven of the past 11 majors, including the last three. He's never won the French Open, though, and is trying to join Laver, Don Budge, Roy Emerson, Fred Perry and Andre Agassi as the only men to win a career Grand Slam.

The victory over Ancic was Federer's 26th in a row at majors, moving him past Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras and alone into second place. Laver holds the record of 29.

So how does Federer do it?

"Talent with hard work: Without one or the other, you're not going to get anywhere these days, anymore," he said. "Thank God I realized in time what I needed to do. I got my game into a position where I can play aggressive, I can play defense, and I can play counterattack, which is very good to know."

He appeared to be in a tough spot in the second set, trailing 3-1 against Ancic, the last man to beat Federer at Wimbledon, in 2002.

But Ancic needed a massage behind his right shoulder during a changeover, and Federer won the last five games of that set. Ancic was visited again by the trainer and tournament doctor in the third set, and Federer pulled away.

"For 1½ sets, it was a very, very close match. Could have been the other way around, too," Federer said. "After that, I was pretty much in control." *AP*

Vaidisova's rolling on clay

PARIS—AS A KID, NICOLE VAIDISOVA used a yellow Venus Williams-model racket, honing her game with the goal of someday beating the world's best players.

Such as Williams.

And that's what the 17-year-old Vaidisova did on Tuesday, staging a comeback for her second successive upset at the French Open. She beat Williams, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, to earn her first Grand Slam semifinal berth against Svetlana Kuznetsova on Thursday.

"She played really good tennis and seems to be on a roll," Williams said.

In her previous match, the precocious Czech beat top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo by a similar score: 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-2.

"I've surprised myself a little," Vaidisova said.

Williams again came up short in her 10th try for a Roland Garros title.

"I would have loved to have done better," she said.

Earning berths in the other semifinal were Belgians Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters, who will play each other for the 18th time on Thursday.

Henin-Hardenne, who won the tournament in 2003 and 2005, beat Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany, 7-5, 6-2. Two-time runner-up Clijsters defeated Martina Hingis, 7-6 (5), 6-1.

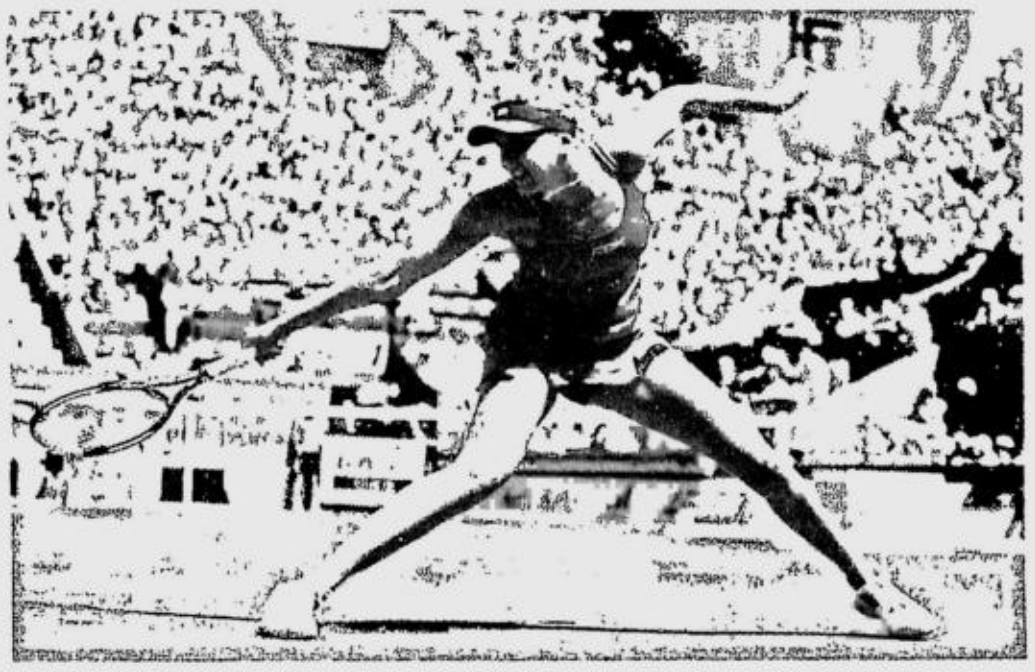
The showcase match in the women's semis will be the all-Belgian pairing. Clijsters leads the rivalry 10-7, but they've met only once since January 2005.

There was a strain in the relationship for a time, but they're friends again and Fed Cup teammates.

"We put the problems of the past aside," Henin-Hardenne said. "We have a lot of respect for each other. We each know what each of us has done is quite fabulous. Everybody will pay a lot of attention to this match."

Vaidisova is drawing plenty of attention, too. The 6-foot (1.8-meter) blonde has been compared to Maria Sharapova, who was 17 when she won Wimbledon in 2004, but the ferocity of her groundstrokes are also reminiscent of three-time Grand Slam winner Lindsay Davenport.

Davenport has won every major event except Roland Garros, and Vaidisova is surprised to be doing so well on clay herself. *AP*



CZECH Republic's Nicole Vaidisova is becoming tennis' new poster girl. AP

Riley's retooled roster intensifies Miami Heat

MIAMI—A FEW DAYS AGO, PAT RILEY WAS asked if he felt vindicated by his bold, roster-revamping moves last summer. The Miami Heat coach has heard that question often lately, and his answer is usually about the same.

"It's working," he said. "We'll find out if it has worked."

Riley demands excellence from himself and those around him. He's always been about championships, and his team is now four wins from a title. The next step is Game 1 of the NBA finals Thursday against the Mavericks in Dallas.

"I never second-guessed myself, and I'm not interested in vindication," Riley said. "And the fact that the team is playing together and has come together, I'm just glad we've got a team that's versatile and sort of is what I thought it would look like."

The Heat have never won the league crown in their 18-year history. Riley's last title came in 1988 with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"We're using each other to make each other look good," said Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, a three-time champion.

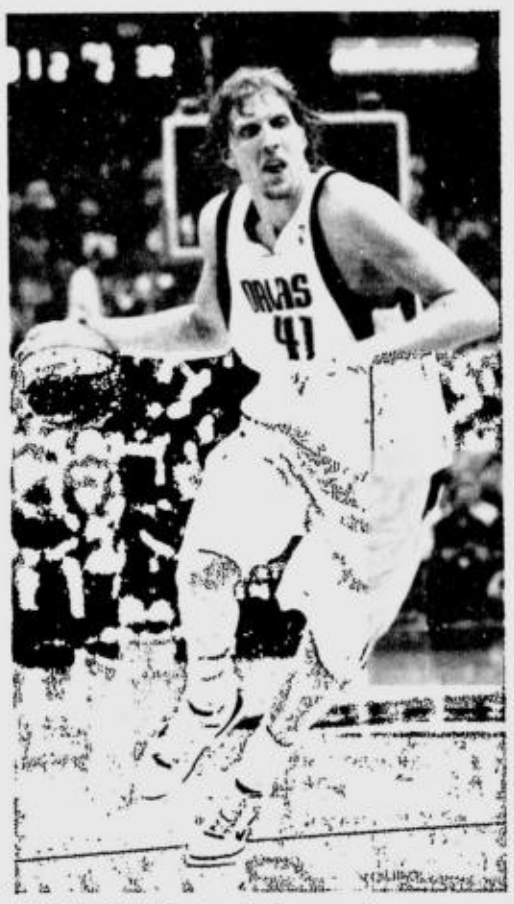
Last year, the Heat were 90 seconds from beating Detroit and getting to the finals. Changes soon followed. Riley traded Eddie Jones, didn't re-sign Damon Jones and loaded the team with players who had never won titles.

He traded for Jason Williams, James Posey and Antoine Walker, then signed Gary Payton to a one-year deal. The complaints started promptly: Williams wasn't the right fit, Posey wasn't as good as Eddie Jones, Walker was a ball hog who wouldn't fit with O'Neal and Dwyane Wade. And on it went.

Riley disagreed, and he was not alone.

"Shaq is moving really good. Wade obviously is having a great season," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said. "But I think more than anything the key has been Antoine Walker, James Posey and Gary Payton and Jason Williams and all those guys.

"I'm not sure what would've happened if they'd kept the same team, but I think the key has been all those other guys because you know Shaq and Wade are dominant. So you need a supporting cast." *AP*



NOWITZKI: No two bad games in a row. AP

Dirk's best asset is bouncing back

DALLAS—AS THE MIAMI HEAT try to find ways to handle Dirk Nowitzki, they'll no doubt look at his mistakes which cost the Dallas Mavericks NBA playoff games against San Antonio and Phoenix. The Heat would be wise to heed what happened next.

The Mavericks didn't lose another game in each series, and Nowitzki more than atoned for each flub.

Against the San Antonio Spurs, Nowitzki missed a potential tying 3-pointer at the end of Game 6, then immediately chided himself for not driving for a layup.

Given a similar chance in Game 7, Nowitzki did exactly what he said he would. The German star converted the three-point play, forcing overtime and helping Dallas knock out the defending champions.

Against the Phoenix Suns, Nowitzki went 3-for-13 and scored only 11 points in a loss at Phoenix which tied the Western Conference finals at 2-2. He came back to score 50 in the next game, then sparked a late rally in the following game which sent the Mavericks into the NBA finals for the first time in 26 years.

"He's been good all season long and he's turned into greatness" in the playoffs, teammate Jason Terry said. "Dirk is a legend in the making."

Nowitzki goes into Game 1 of the NBA finals on Thursday averaging 28.4 points and 11.9 rebounds in the playoffs. If there was a NBA MVP for the entire playoffs, he'd likely be the leader thus far.

Sure, Dwyane Wade has been terrific for Miami. But he has Shaquille O'Neal to help him out.

In Dallas, the playoffs boil down to this: As Dirk goes, so do Dallas. The numbers back it up.

In their five losses, Nowitzki averaged 22.6 points and was the team's top scorer only twice. In their 12 wins, he's averaged 30.8 and led the team 10 times. *AP*

FRENCH midfielders Zinedine Zidane (left) and Patrick Vieira laugh around while sharpening up for the coming World Cup. AFP

Ronaldinho asks World Cup refs: Take care of Brazilians

KOENIGSTEIN—WORLD AND EUROPEAN footballer of the year Ronaldinho pleaded with the referees to look after him and his World Cup title-holding teammates Brazil during the World Cup finals which get underway in Munich on Friday.

The Barcelona playmaker added that he and his teammates were itching to get started—they play 1998 semifinalists Croatia in their opening match in Berlin next Tuesday—as they bid to win a sixth World Cup for their country.

However Ronaldinho said that he hoped the referees would pay special attention to their opponents in trying to stifle their flowing attacking style of football.

"All the teams are waiting for us and will be doubly alert in paying attention to our attack," said Ronaldinho, who scored a wonder goal four years ago against England in the quarterfinals.

"That motivates me even more because I know that no player is going to make life easy for us.

"It is important that the refereeing is rigorous because of our style of playing."

Ronaldinho, though, said he was delighted with the form he was in.

"It is wonderful to be approaching a World Cup finals in the form that I am in.

"There is no nerves in our camp, we are just gagging to start the tournament. We have of course prepared to do our best, because we know that the World Cup will be difficult if we are not ready. We will not win."

Ronaldinho said he expected group rivals, Croatia, Australia and Japan, to shut up shop in a desperate attempt to close out their imposing attack of himself, Ronaldo and Robinho.

"Every team we play regardless of their normal style of play defend against us," said the former Paris Saint Germain star. "We are mindful that it is difficult to score goals in that case.

"However, we train as hard as ever in order to break down the defenses and beat our rivals," added Ronaldinho, who revealed that he relaxes by playing samba music with several of his teammates, though others prefer table tennis. *AFP*

Schumacher targets 'Silverstone' double

SILVERSTONE, ENGLAND—Michael Schumacher hopes to complete a German sporting double in the British Grand Prix on Sunday.

The seven-time world drivers' champion lags 21 points behind Fernando Alonso in the drivers' championship following the Spaniard's fourth win of the year in the Monaco Grand Prix.

But, after breaking the lap record during testing sessions in Barcelona, Schumacher, 37, is confident he can close that gap at Silverstone, where he has won three times before.

And he hopes that Germany's football team will kick-start a successful sporting weekend for the country by beating Costa Rica in their opening game of the football World Cup on Friday.

Schumacher said: "We have managed to sort out the car really well, we have prepared our tires for Silverstone and generally worked toward doing well at the Grand Prix this weekend.

"We've improved several areas and I think everyone will be able to see that at Silverstone. We should be able to do well and fight for the win there. That is of course our goal."

Schumacher was demoted from pole position to the back of the grid for the last race in Monaco after race stewards ruled he had cheated by stopping his car on the track in the dying seconds of qualifying. *AFP*

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertain

COUNSELOR Randy Dellosa and Teen Edition winner Kim Chiu.

'PBB' still in trouble with MTRCB

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ALTHOUGH THE ABS-CBN REALITY SHOW "Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition" concluded its 42-day run on June 3, it's still in trouble with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

The MTRCB earlier investigated a purported violation committed on the show, and met on June 1 with the show's representatives—Lauren Dyogi, director; Florida Tan, head of Programming and On-Air Operations; Randy Dellosa, resident psychologist; and lawyer Mona Manalo.

LAGUARDIA

As a result of the June 1 hearing, Tan wrote a letter, dated June 5 and addressed to MTRCB chair Ma. Consoliza P. Laguardia, presenting the network's side.

Agents' memo

The hearing had stemmed from a memo written by two MTRCB special agents dated May 16. In the memo, the agents noted that "two housemates talked about a sensitive issue with a sexual theme."

Contained in the same memo was a transcript of the conversation between housemates Fred Payawan and Mikee Lee and Big Brother, aired on May 11. The topic: Self-pleasure.

In the June 5 letter, Tan asserted that "the discussion ... about biological urges should be taken within ... context."

She continued: "The subject is a legitimate concern among teenagers, and is dealt with as part of sex education classes as early as the elementary grades."

She said the two housemates, whom she described as "sensible, educated, decent and well-mannered," had opened up to Big Brother "about their urges" by way of seeking guidance from an adult.

Clinical, mature

Tan pointed out that the discussion "was immediately followed [on air] by the professional opinion of the program's resident psychologist ... who explained that, while it was natural for teenagers ... to experience sexual urges, it was also possible to provide [them] with [helpful] activities" like daily tasks and sports.

In fact, she said, this was addressed by the program in subsequent episodes.

Tan reiterated that all this "was done by the show in a clinical, mature and serious manner."

Dellosa informed INQUIRER Entertainment about the male housemates' predicament as early as two weeks ago.

The counselor said: "The boys are having difficulty with sexual urges. The housemates have even come up with code names for it—like 'emergency habit' and 'rapoinks'—just as they have coined the term 'japoinks' for defecating. I just want to stress that these urges are natural, but one need not act on them."

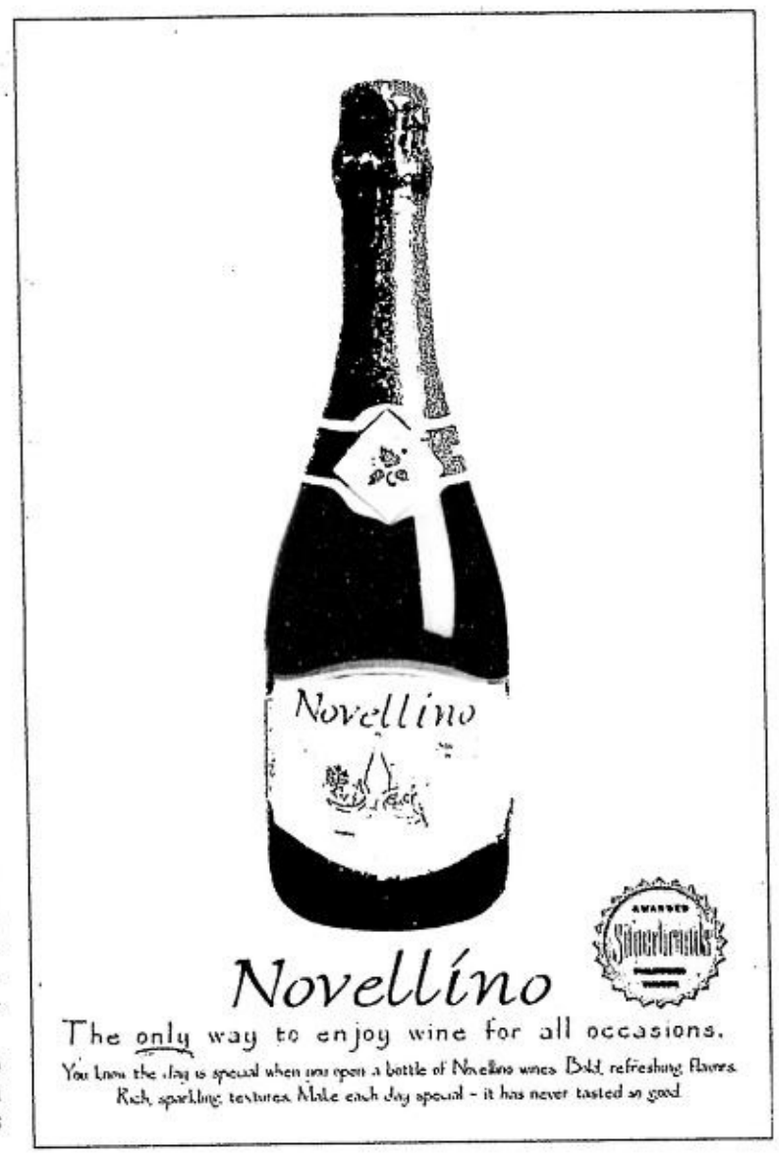
Teens speak

When the four finalists guested on "PBB on Studio 23: Dahil si Kuya Kabarkada Mo" last Monday, host Asia Agcaoili asked big winner Kim Chiu about "breaking wind."

Chiu answered, "It's something done by everyone ... something natural."

Laguardia told INQUIRER that the MTRCB has invited "PBB" representatives to another adjudication meeting within the month.

The MTRCB chief clarified the Board's position: "Although the 'Teen Edition' has ended, 'PBB' is set to start a new season in August. We don't want the same mistakes committed. On the finale show last weekend, words with double meaning were used. I believe the producers are testing the waters, trying to see how far they can go."



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX	6 X-MEN 3
2 CARS	7 THE BENCHWARMERS
3 THE INSIDE MAN	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 THE OMEN	9 MANAY PO
5 TAKE THE LEAD	10 CHAOS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE OMEN	
2 MANAY PO	5 CARS
3 TAKE THE LEAD	6 THE INSIDE MAN
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	7 X-MEN 3

METRO EAST 682-8183 • 682-8199

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	5 CARS
2 THE OMEN	6 THE INSIDE MAN
3 X-MEN 3	7 TAKE THE LEAD
4 MANAY PO	8 ALL ABOUT LOVE

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE OMEN	4 CARS
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	5 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE	6 MANAY PO

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576 / PIONEER 687-5378

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE	1 THE OMEN
2 X-MEN 3	2 CARS
3 RESERVE	3 THE INSIDE MAN
4 RESERVE	4 TAKE THE LEAD

break the code...
witness the most controversial movie of the year!

Directed by Oscar Best Director **Ron Howard** *and starring Oscar Best Actor* **Tom Hanks**

still showing

at **Robinsons Movieworld**
galleria • metro east • novaliches • pioneer malabon • sta. rosa • dasmariñas • imus lipa • starmills, pampanga • angeles bacolod • iloilo

MTRCB Rating: R-18

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0007 / LIPA (043) 757-3864 (043) 312-5870

1 AQUAMARINE	1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 CARS	2 SILENT HILL
3 MANAY PO	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 MANAY PO
5 THE DA VINCI CODE	5 X-MEN 3

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 / ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE DA VINCI CODE	1 THE OMEN
2 CARS	2 CARS
3 AQUAMARINE	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO	4 MANAY PO
5 ALL ABOUT LOVE	

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-6188 / STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 THE OMEN	1 CARS
2 CARS	2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 MANAY PO	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 MANAY PO
5 X-MEN 3	5 X-MEN 3
6 THE DA VINCI CODE	6 THE OMEN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0456 / ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 AQUAMARINE	1 REINCARNATION
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE	2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3 BANDIDAS	3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3	5 X-MEN 3
6 OVER THE HEDGE	6 MANAY PO

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

SM CINEMA movietime

SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999

CENTER Tele | LIVE-LARGE

831-1000 loc. 2671, 2673, 2682, 2691

BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

movietime BIG MOVIE

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMAS

Distributed by: BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL

MTRCB Rating G (All Ages Admitted)

Red Carpet PREMIERE

Garfield 2:
A Tail of Two Kitties
June 10, 2006
SM Megamall Cinema 1

Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso
(Not Once But Twice)
June 12, 2006
SM Mall of Asia Cinema 3

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA (SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola)
IMAX THEATRE
EVEREST
11:30 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30
NASCAR 3D
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00
PREMIERE CINEMA
ALL ABOUT LOVE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
XMEN III
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
INSIDE MAN
CARS
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE

PODIUM
CINEMA 1
CARS
CINEMA 2
TAKE THE LEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
THE OMEN
M:I:III
TAKE THE LEAD
MANAY PO
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
THE OMEN
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM MEGACINEMA
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
INSIDE MAN
XMEN III
CARS
CHAOS
THE OMEN
OVER THE HEDGE
BENCHWARMERS
TAKE THE LEAD
M:I:III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
SILENT HILL

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
CARS
INSIDE MAN
THE OMEN
XMEN III
M:I:III
CHAOS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
TAKE THE LEAD
MANAY PO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
BENCHWARMERS
OVER THE HEDGE
CHAOS
INSIDE MAN
MANAY PO
THE OMEN
XMEN III
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
POSEIDON
M:I:III
TAKE THE LEAD

SM CITY DASMARINAS
CARS
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM CITY STA. MESA
THE OMEN
THE INSIDE MAN
XMEN III
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS
TAKE THE LEAD
M:I:III
CHAOS

SM CITY MANILA
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
POSEIDON
INSIDE MAN
XMEN III
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
CHAOS
M:I:III
BENCH WARMERS
CARS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
THE OMEN
XMEN III
TAKE THE LEAD
INSIDE MAN
CARS
ALL BOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
THE OMEN
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS

SM CITY SUCAT
CARS
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

EVENT CALENDAR — CENTER Tele — EVENT CALENDAR

MAXMEDIA PRESENTS

m.y.m.p.
Fall in Love
JUNE 10, 2006 • SM MEGAMALL
SATURDAY • CINEMA 9 • 8:30 PM
with special guest NYOY VOLANTE
Tickets at (P300, P500, P800)
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

SM CITY BAGUIO
THE OMEN
ALL ABPOUT LOVE
CARS
XMEN III

SM CITY MARILAO
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
XMEN III

SM CITY BACOOR
POSEIDON
M:I:III
XMEN III
MANAY PO
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
SILENT HILL

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
SENTINEL
MANAY PO

SM CITY LUCENA
XMEN II
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CLARK
THE OMEN
XMEN III
CARS
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE OMEN
CARS
XMEN III
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III
MANAY PO
CHAOS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
XMEN III

SM CITY CEBU
XMEN III
CARS
THE OMEN
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
AQUAMARINE
BANDIDAS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
M:I:III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
RESERVED
ALL ABOUT LOVE
GRANDMA'S BOY
MANAY PO
XMEN III
RESERVED
REINCARNATION

SM CITY DAVAO
XMEN III
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
THE OMEN
MANAY PO
CARS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
SILENT HILL
BENCHWARMERS
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

A2 — CHEER FACTOR

ADAM Sandler

Watch daddy!

LOS ANGELES—IN the four weeks since he became a dad, Adam Sandler has learned at least one lesson: How to avoid changing diapers.

The comedian talked to reporters over the weekend about his latest movie, "Click," his diaper duties and fatherhood.

"It's fun. It's great," Sandler said. "I was dying to do it."

His wife, Jackie, gave birth to their daughter, Sadie Madison, in early May.

Sandler, 39, showed some concern that his daughter seems to look straight through him. "I'm like, 'Oh, she's staring at my forehead,' he said.

When asked if he felt pressured, he said it was just the opposite. "I feel a little more relief that I don't have to think about myself too much anymore. I don't have to talk about how great I am," he joked.

Sandler said that while he might not let his daughter hear his comedy albums—some of which contain raunchy material—his movies were just fine.

"I like what I've been doing," he said.

"I don't think she's going to dig 'em until she's maybe 14 or 15 ... or 10. I know I'll show 'em to her, her whole life. 'Watch daddy now,'" he joked. *Reuters*

FEEDBACK

How dare!

From JP Yulo (jp.yulo@gmail.com):

In last Sunday's Entertainment section, Antonio Banderas was quoted as saying: "You know, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba ...we (Spain) liberated all of you!"

Spain did not liberate us, she subjugated us. We had to mount a revolution to liberate ourselves!

No matter how one reads Mr. Banderas' remarks, it still reflects a distorted viewpoint of history. If we allow this thinking, albeit done in jest, to simply pass (and eventually prevail), then what do we make of the memory of Lapu Lapu, Bonifacio, Rizal, Diego Silang, Mabini, and countless of other nameless revolutionaries who gave life and limb to defend our dignity as a people?

We were free and thriving long before the first Spanish ship reached our shores.

Everything's coming up roses for Marvin

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

EVER SINCE MARVIN AGUSTIN MOVED TO the Kapuso network, it seems everything has been going well for him. Marvs has a top-rating TV series with **Jolina Magdangal** ("I Luv NY") which proves that their loveteam hasn't lost its magic.

And just like a wish that has come true, his dad has been set free from prison. We imagine it was a tearful and joyous reunion when Marvs let his dad carry his grandsons!

As for this new Kapuso's "puso," heard that the current apple of his eye is half-Australian model Lani Pillinger. A condo neighbor of Lani's attests that she always sees Marvin there—sometimes bringing a huge bouquet of flowers. I teased Marvs about Lani. He just smiled and said "*Bilib talaga ako sa radar mo!*"

LANI Pillinger

Trading places

Tin-Tin Bersola-Babao and I have this running joke that we should trade places even for a day so I'll know what it's like to be a morning person and she'll get the feel of being a lunar-powered creature. In spite of our opposite lifestyle, we share a common joy—motherhood! Tin happily told me that she and her lovable daughter **Antonia** have signed up as endorsers of Robby Rabbit, a Filipino-created cartoon character that has spawned a line of school bags, children's apparel, waterjugs and other collectible items.

Is she more of a mom or a wife? "A mother," she said. "I'm lucky that Julius is understanding and supportive."

Just asking

Could it be true that **Mariel Rodriguez** and **Zanjoe Marudo** are really "on," but that they are keeping their romance hush-hush for the sake of their careers? Are they wary that their love won't work if it gets in the way of their work? Or is it because they love their work too much? In show biz parlance, *di ba kaya ni* Mariel and Zanjoe career-*in ang* love?

Secretly sweet

During Oro Entertainment's concert of **Sheila Mae** at Metro Bar, guest performers **Sam Milby** and **Toni Gonzaga** were not too chummy backstage. One production staff member said: "We expected them to be super sweet but they were not. *Nabitin tuloy kami!*"

Perhaps Toni and Sam would rather keep their sweetness private. When you show it all, love loses its mystery. No need for PDA, or Public Display of Affection, which usually turns into some sort of Pornographic Distraction and Attraction, anyway.

Speaking of Toni, a concerned reader e-mailed me regarding her song "We Belong." The writer said, "I thought it was an English adaptation of 'First Love' sung by JPOP artist Utada Hikaru. I was shocked when I heard on TV that it's an original composition. The resemblance is too obvious to ignore."

How ironic. To whom does "We Belong" rightfully belong?

Still on "piracy" ... I've been swamped with e-mail protesting that "Captain Barbell" is a rip-off of "Smallville" (a series depicting the life of young Superman). To quote some of the viewers' sentiments:

"Too many similarities—the main character arrived in a futuristic ship ... how he is found on the field by a couple in a red pick-up (down to the truck model) ... the villains were "infected" by that meteor shower-like arrival. Even the main character's love interest—there are two girls (Lana Lang /Lois Lane?). Why can't they just stick to, or expand, the original story?"

Well well well ... is Captain Barbell turning out to be a "pirate" a la Captain Hook?

Enchanted search

The Enchanted Kingdom theme park is in the pre-production stage of its new full-length feature fantasy film.

Auditions for children—6 to 13 years old—in the cast are set EK in Santa Rosa, Laguna on June 10, 11 and 12, 1 p.m. onwards. Call 830-21-11 to 16 or 914-11-04.

Show biz Hi

In Hi! magazine's June issue: **Donita Rose's** 10-year drug abuse; wedding bells for lovers **Judy Ann Santos** and **Ryan Agoncillo** very soon (?), and **Sharon Cuneta** goes back to school.

MARIEL Rodriguez

Personal

Muchissimas gracias to gorgeous **Alfred Vargas** (whom I've known since his Ateneo days) for sending my IC and me copies of his mouth-watering coffee table book. His dedication: "To Dolly, my pre-show biz friend..."

Grab a copy (only P330) and see for yourself why Alfred is a veritable demi-god!

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.)

DONITA Rose

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway · Ali Mall · Farmers Plaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway Cineplex 10 — Dolby Digital-EX

CARS 11:30 / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	INSIDE MAN 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	OMEN 666 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00	Globe Platinum Cinema
TAKE THE LEAD 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30	MANAY PO 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:30 / 3:40 / 6:50 / 10:00	
ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	BENCH WARMERS 12:25 / 2:15 / 4:05 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 6:00 / 8:00 / 10:00	X-MEN 3 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	OMEN 666 1:55 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 OMEN 666 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25	2 CARS 12:50 / 3:20 / 6:50 / 8:20	3 X-MEN 3 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55
4 TAKE THE LEAD 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45	5 ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:10 R5 / 1:15 / 3:40 / 6:05 / 8:30	Dolby Digital · dts · SDDS

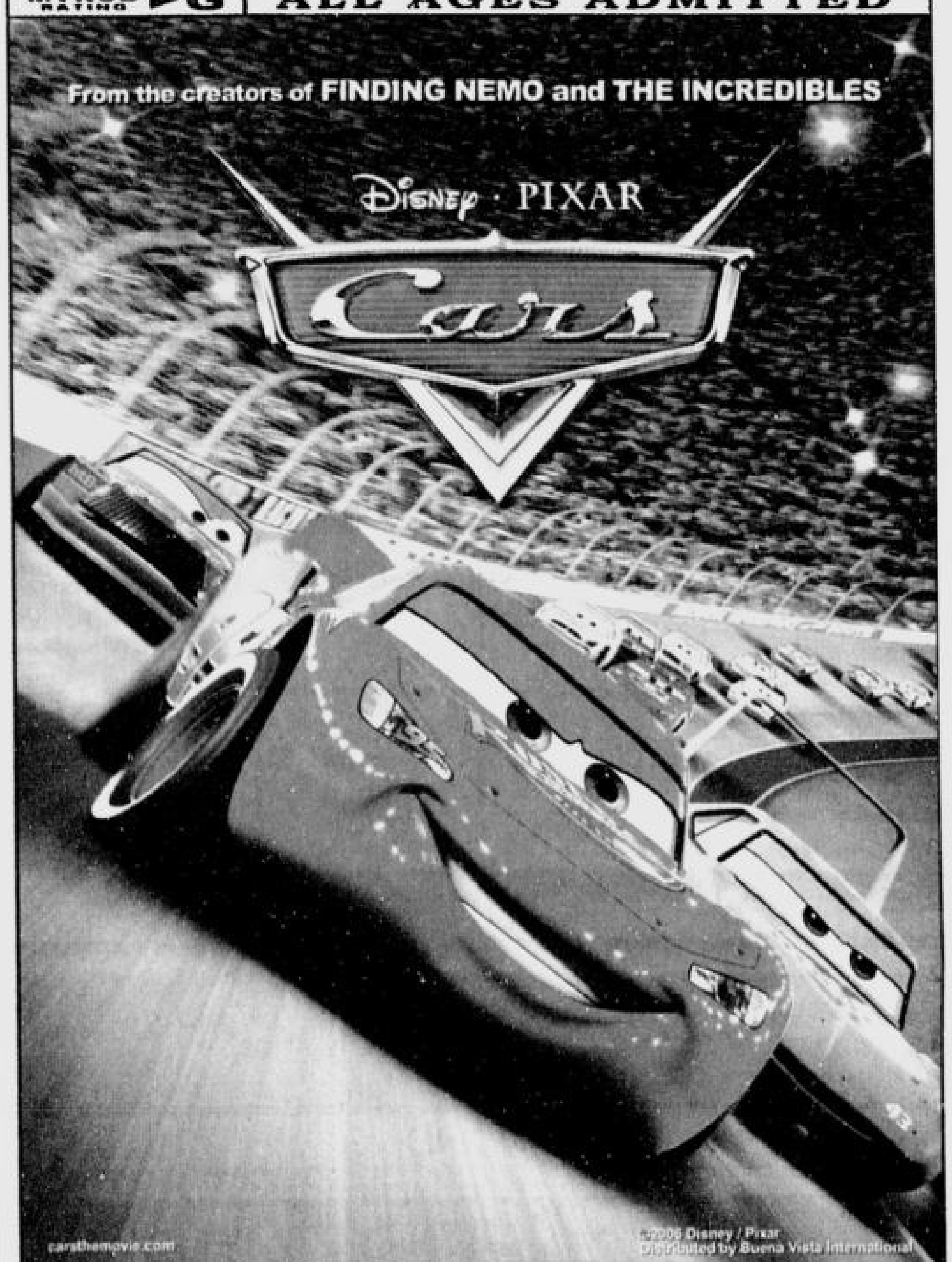
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

Disney · Pixar Cars

RACE TO GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 & ALI MALL CINEMAS TODAY

RACING INTO THEATERS TODAY

MTRCB RATING ► G | ALL AGES ADMITTED



Distributed by: Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, June 08, 2006

American Idol

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network

Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm

ABC Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Nat'l Geographic	V League				Sentro	Worst Case Scenario	S O S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Dokyu			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	Wonderful Life	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: (Season 6)		CSI Miami (Season II)		AXN Road Trip Fifa World Cup 2006	Samsung Sports World	Beastmaster (Season I)		Pensacola (Season III)		Fear Factor (Season V)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Supernatural (Season I)		Hex (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dko	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Dugo sa Buhangin				Milan				D' Dragons				Sanib				Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita	
Cinemax	Young at Heart (2:45PM)				House Of Wax (4:40PM)			Intolerable Cruelty (6:15PM)				Blind Side			The 51st State (9:35PM)			Torque (11:05PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Inside The Middle East	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Crossing Jordan		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		What Should You Do?		Cold Case		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Dangerman With Geoff Mackley		Size It Up!		Animal Face-Off		Walking With Cavemen		Extreme Engineering		Mean Machine	Connect	Mythbusters		Size It Up!		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Tutenstein	Lizzie Mcguire	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN			Motorsport Asia	World Cup Qualifiers				World Cup Focus 2006	U.S. Open Golf Champ		Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	Toyota Football Up Close	U.S. Open Golf Champ		Sportscenter Asia	World Cup Qualifiers		
ETC		American Dreams 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		Maury Povich Show		Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Showbiz Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Canticle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live w/ Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever	Endless Love 1:		Salyald	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Century	Jewel In The Palace		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Maud's Daughters V (3:15PM)		Ordinary Miracles (4:05PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Spooks		Mike Bassett: England Manager			Spooks (11:45PM)
HBO				Ike: Countdown To D-Day			Around The Bend			The Untouchables				Spider-Man 2				Legends of the Fall	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Mission Odyssey
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		PBA Best Of The PBA		Global Family Special	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Show With David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'D		Handpicked Slapshock	MTV Hits (with SMS)					Get Spotted	VH1 Presents: Rock Books 3		Ultrasound Slapshock	TRL		Punk'D		Sessions Slapshock	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	N. G. Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science: Bermuda Triangle		Top 5 - World of Reptiles		WOW! Madagascar Mysteries		About Asia		N. G. Specials		Megastructures: Hoover Dam		Naked Science: Alien Contact	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp	Dyos Ko Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey L. & Angelique L.		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob Squarepants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Nick Kicks	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Imagine Regine				Sumpaan				Lipa Arandia Massacre				Honey My Love So Sweet				Gabriela
Qtv	Kaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Scrapped Princess	Kokado Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	O, Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene	[illegible]
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Arangkada News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Poker Hour
SBN 21				New UK TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports							Tennis: Fed Cup 2006- 1st Rd				Boxing: Jose Luis Castillo vs Diego Corrales III						Solar Sports Desk	2006 Hitachi Asian Women's Club	
Sports Plus				FIFA Preview Series 12	Gillette World Cup Preview 10	World Game		French Open '06 Day 11 Highlights		Auto Focus		French Open '06 Day 12 SF Finale 1							Nopi Tunervision
Star Movies			Blood Of The Templars (Part 1)			Blood Of The Templars (Part 2)			Licence To Kill (6:45 PM)					My Favorite Martian			Home Alone 3 (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	The Simple Life/ The Simpson Rock Star		Scrubs	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	Seinfeld	The Simple Life/ The Simpson Rock Star
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Videos		Joey (8:20 PM)	Ghost Whisperer (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Wholesome gay angst

THE CAST of "Manay Po"

REVIEW

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FOR A GAY MOVIE THAT'S created for a wider audience, "Manay Po" manages to poke into the complexities of some problematic gender identity issues. Director Joel Lamangan isn't big on subtlety but this comedy-drama, for all its faults, is still watchable. Scenes meant to elicit laughs become highly campy and unrealistic, but oddly, that adds to this film's deliberately "alternative" feel. It certainly is easier to watch than his previous gay-centric "dramedy" effort, "So Happy Together," because of this new movie's smarter, snappier script, and the nice mix of actors.

It pushes the right angst and feel-good buttons, as it focuses on three gay siblings and their loving, devoted single mother. It's good to see versatile Cherry Pie Picache evolve by taking on disparate roles through the years, and this specific mom is just exceptionally delightful. As Luz, she conveys and deals with rapid emotional shifts along with her three sons, closeted architect Oscar (Polo Ravales), flamboyant art student Orson (John Prats), and volatile teen Orwell (Jiro Manio).

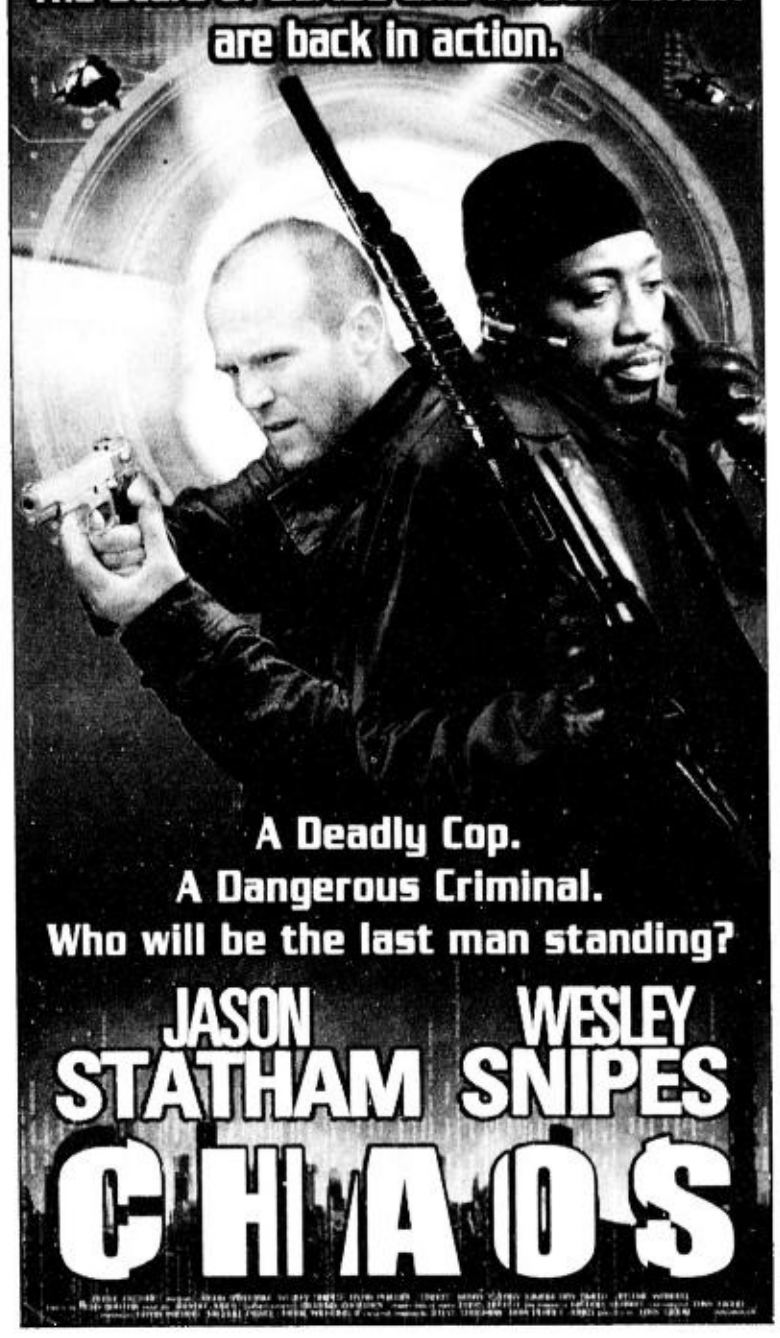
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE OMEN 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2 CARS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GP
3 THE INSIDE MAN 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05 PG-13
4 TAKE THE LEAD 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35 PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT)
2 CARS MTRCB GP 11 40, 2 15, 4 50, 7:25, 10 00
3 OMEN 666 MTRCB R-13 12 00, 2.30, 5:00, 7:30, 10.00
4 THE INSIDE MAN MTRCB PG-13 1 45, 4 30, 7.15, 10 00
PREMIERE THEATRE TAKE THE LEAD / XMEN 3 1 25, 6 35 / 4 00, 9 10 MTRCB PG-13
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Catch the French Film Festival 2006 at the Shang Cineplex from June 9-18! Celebrate French Spring as you enjoy a selection of critically acclaimed films at the Cinema 1. Tickets are at P50/person
Call 633-7881, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
FAILURE TO LAUNCH PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50
CARS G 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20
X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00
THE INSIDE MAN PG13 2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
TAKE THE LEAD PG13 2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
OMEN 666 R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30
MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
The Stars of BLADE and TRANSPORTER are back in action.



A Deadly Cop.
A Dangerous Criminal.
Who will be the last man standing?
JASON STATHAM WESLEY SNIPES
CHAOS

SCHERING HSBC The world's local bank PLDT
JJ McCOLL'S
we're still HOT!
NIÑA ROMUALDEZ LYNN SHERMAN SHAMAINE CENTENERA AND PINKY MARQUEZ
Teatrino at the Promenade, Greenhills
MAY 26, 27 JUNE 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 AT 8PM.
"BAWDY, BLISSFUL, BITCHY, BOUNTIFUL, BRATTY!" – NESTOR TORRE
"A FEEL GOOD MUSICAL.... BONDING INTRO... GO SEE THE SHOW!" – JOHN SILVA
"A giant consciousness raising session.." - Rina Jimenez David
NOW ON IT'S FINAL RUN!
TICKETWORLD 891 9999 AND 1
MUSIC MUSEUM 721 6726 TEATRINO 722 4882 LA...

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Livemall!

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 728 7777
THX
G1 GLORIETTA 1: 1 THE OMEN | 2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 3 MANAY PO | 4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4: 1 CARS | 2 THE OMEN | 3 THX INSIDE MAN 12:30, 3.00, 6 30, 8 00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH | 5 TAKE THE LEAD | 6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1: 1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 2 THE OMEN
GB3 GREENBELT 3: 1 THX CARS 2:30, 6:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX THE OMEN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS | 3 TAKE THE LEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9 00, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 INSIDE MAN 1:15, 3:45, 6 15, 8 45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1 THX CARS | 2 INSIDE MAN | 3 THE OMEN | 4 TAKE THE LEAD | 5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 THE OMEN | 2 CARS | 3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH | 4 AQUAMARINE / X-MEN
M2 MARKET! MARKET!: 1 THE OMEN | 2 CARS | 3 TAKE THE LEAD | 4 INSIDE MAN | 5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn; Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm; Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324; Market! Market! - 886 7519
GLORIETTA: BPI Techno Installment Madness, June 7 to 18, 2006
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 5th ATC Taekwondo Invitational, June 10 & 11, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU: Y SPEAK, June 10, 2006
MARKET! MARKET!: Alaska Yamoo: The Super Good Drink for Super Good Kids! June 12, 2006
GREENBELT: Dinner Theater presents "I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE" - Extended Run! June 6, 13 & 20, 2006 - Greenbelt 2
Onstage: The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for June to July 2006. For inquiries, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3862
Ayala MUSEUM: PAROLA: Colonial Lighthouses in the Philippines, May 18 to June 18, 2006. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Ayala Malls CINEMAS and Nestlé KOKO KRUNCH invite you to a CAR FUN DAY
at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby on June 10 and 11, 2006 from 10:30 AM to 8:00 PM. Gear up for one full day of non-stop games and surprises for the whole family!
GRAND OPENING TODAY AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Ayala Malls
THE 1ST JAB FAIR @ THE AYALA MALLS
The 1st Lifestyle and Recreational Boxing Fair
June 2 to 4 Glorietta Activity Center
June 16 to 18 Market! Market!
June 23 to 25 Alabang Town Center
Presented by:
Co-Presented by:

'Manay Po' director Joel Lamangan isn't exactly big on subtlety but this comedy-drama, for all its faults, is still largely watchable

The three brothers have gotten accustomed to not having a father around, but the film doesn't conclusively get into the root of specific sexuality issues that some of the characters experience.

Oscar, for example, has a secret boyfriend (Luis Alandy), and has kept the relationship hidden for seven years. But he also has a clueless girlfriend who wants to start a family with him!

Paradox

The Oscar character is traditionally macho, but is an overtly homophobic paradox. His self-hate, unfortunately, manifests in repeated bullying of his effeminate and loud brother Orson (whose gay-dar has detected a blip from his older sibling). What isn't clear is the cause of that inner conflict. Had a concrete reason been given, by flashback or just a casual line, the character would've been perfect.

Still, Oscar is used well, and is sewn into a sizable portion of the drama. Prats' openly gay Orson is more of the comic relief, even when he's experiencing heartbreak. Prats is good, but his mostly over-the-top delivery downplays the urgency of his character's romantic foibles. And because of the actor's angular body type and masculine facial contours, the transvestite look isn't convincing. But Prats' lines are some of the funniest and most enlightening, thanks to his consistent swish and sashaying.

Diversity

"Manay Po" captures the diversity of the gay community through these characters, as well as its third main gay character, Orwell. Manio's decently played young teen is typically the impressionable kid, but he's still his own person. The boy can do well enough in schoolyard fisticuffs, but shrieks like a girl when startled. This character shows a formative stage in one's sexuality, where peer pressure plays a huge role. His innocence is an interesting foil to his older brothers' more complicated situations.

Sanitized

As a whole, the film is a sanitized, wholesome look at homosexuality, and the heartaches and triumphs of certain gay people. It could've done without the eye-rolling music video-dream sequence, where Ravales, Prats and Manio sing and dance in drag—way too long and pointless. But there are messages about tolerance aplenty and funny supporting characters that embody acceptance, such as the busybody housekeeper (Giselle Sanchez) and the generous father figure (Christian Vazquez). "Manay Po" unfolds without visual or storytelling spectacle, but it succeeds in creating this flawed yet hopeful world, even when the characters' lives and choices are occasionally easy to map out from our perspective.

MTRCB RATING PG-13
NOW SHOWING
DENZEL WASHINGTON
CLIVE OWEN
JODIE FOSTER
INSIDE MAN
IT LOOKED LIKE THE PERFECT BANK ROBBERY. BUT YOU CAN'T JUDGE A CRIME BY ITS COVER.
www.insideman.net
United International Pictures
UNIVERSAL
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 TAKE THE LEAD 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 PG13
CINEMA 2 X-MEN 111 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10 PG13
DOLBY DIGITAL
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE INSIDE MAN 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35 PG13
CINEMA 4 CARS 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 5 OMEN 6+6+6 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 9,10,16,17,23,24,30 — NINA ... in VERY MANILOW — 9:00PM
JULY 8,2006 — GLADYS GUEVARA — 9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY — DANCE NIGHT — 7:00PM
JUNE 9,10,16,17,2006 — WE'RE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" — 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

★DANTE BASCO★ WELCOME to MANILA!!! NOW SHOWING
MTRCB PG-13
"...IT WILL ENTIRELY TOUCH YOUR HEART AND SOUL." ---Andre White, Daily TRIBUNE
"...THE ULTIMATE MESSAGE OF HOPE THAT IS GENUINE AND STIRRING." ---Brett Buckalew, FILMSTEW.COM
"...A CAPTIVATING MOVIE THAT MAKES YOU SMILE, LAUGH AND CRY." ---Susan Granger, MODAMAG.COM
EVERY DREAM BEGINS BY TAKING ONE STEP
ANTONIO BANDERAS DANTE BASCO
TAKE THE LEAD
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

BASED ON A TRUE STORY
THE LIVING NIGHTMARE OF ELIZABETH 'BETSY' BELL
ELIZABETH (BETSY) BELL SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL FROM THE BELL WITCH DEMON THROUGH ACTS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE BY HAVING HER HAIR PULLED AND GETTING SLAPPED AND PINCHED TO THE POINT THAT HER FACE AND ARMS WERE COVERED WITH WELTS AND BRUISES. THE INCIDENT WAS WITNESSED AND DOCUMENTED BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, AMONG THEM WAS ANDREW JACKSON, THE 7TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
IT HAPPENED IN 1818
NOW IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN
OPENS JUNE 14
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
THE BELL WITCH STORY
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE BELL WITCH LEGEND? VISIT WWW.ANAMERICANHAUNTINGONLINE.COM

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
9th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT
2 (DOLBY) CARS GP
3 (DOLBY) OMEN 666 R13
4 (DOLBY) THE INSIDE MAN PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD PG13
XMEN 3 PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE INSIDE MAN
2 (SDDS) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 GOLD (DTS) X-MEN-3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CARS
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE BENCHWARMERS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TAKE THE LEAD
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CHAOS
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MANAY PO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
2 (DOLBY) CARS
3 (DOLBY) THE INSIDE MAN
4 (DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MANAY PO
2 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) X-MEN-3
4 CARS
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 MANAY PO
2 (DOLBY) CARS
3 (DTS) X-MEN-3
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) THE POSEIDON
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SILENT HILL
4 (DTS) X-MEN-3
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 X-MEN-3
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 X-MEN-3
2 MANAY PO

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CARS
2 THE OMEN 666
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 THE INSIDE MAN

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY) MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) CARS
4 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 X-MEN-3
5 THE INSIDE MAN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE DA VINCI CODE
5 MANAY PO

MARIKINA TIFFAC
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN-3
4 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE OMEN 666
4 CARS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 CHAOS
3 MANAY PO

THEATRES
NI Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, telephone No (044) 600-3025
1 X-MEN-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE OMEN 666
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
X-MEN-3
ALL ABOUT LOVE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CARS
2 MANAY PO
3 (DTS EX) THE OMEN 666
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 X-MEN-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) REINCARNATION
2 X-MEN-3
3 PLEASE CALL
4 (DTS) PLEASE CALL
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OBSESSION
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS) X-MEN-3
4 MANAY PO
5 CARS
Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SILENT HILL
4 X-MEN-3
Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 X-MEN-3
RAPAO ANG PALAY NAGINO BIGAS MAY BUMAYO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Maverick tips and tricks

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ANTHONY "MAVERICK" Relova, half of the duo Maverick & Ariel of ABC 5's "Totoo TV," is proud to be a serious toy collector.

"I'd like to put up a museum where kids can play with all these toys," Maverick said during INQUIRER Entertainment's visit to the Relova home in Sampaloc, Manila. "You never grow old if you like toys." Thus, the TV host-comedian ushered us into a room filled with action figures that he had been collecting since 1998. Having started talking about them, he could not stop.

"As soon as I find out—via the Internet or from other collectors—that a rare toy is out in the market, I go out immediately to buy one. Even the same action figures have variants—*may nakasimangot, may naka*-smile."

His advice: "Stick to a single line. If you pick 'Star Wars,' concentrate on that. Don't be like me; I buy everything and finish even my savings. I go crazy when new toys are released at the same time."

Taking it to the extreme, Maverick plans to have his own line of action figures. "I'm talking with some people about manufacturing it. I want the character to look exactly like me."

He added, and it sounded like an explanation: "I didn't have many toys when I was young. I received toys from my parents only on two occasions—on my birthday and on Christmas."

When Maverick is not preoccupied with his collection, he indulges in his "second favorite activity"—shopping.

"This is what happens when I shop," he related. "The clothes call out, 'Maverick, buy me! Buy me!'"

His yardstick? "Function is secondary. My top priority is *porma*."

Toys

The first toy I bought with my own money was an All Terrain Scout Transport (ATST). It's a "Star Wars" vehicle for scouting and reconnaissance more than for assault. It's from the "Return of the Jedi." I saw an announcement in Buy and Sell about "Star Wars" figures for sale. The seller was an old man whose son—who owned the toys—had passed away.

I have this vintage Lone Ranger and Tonton action figures from the 1960s. I tried to find a white horse for Lone Ranger, but I couldn't. I had to settle for this brown horse that originally came with a 12-inch soldier. I bought the two items from a collector. You won't see anything like this now.

I wish I had more Most Wanted action figures. This one is Osama Bin Laden. *Nahuli ko na siya*. I got this in 2000. This "Pirates of the Caribbean" toy is a gift from a dealer friend. Johnny (Depp) and I look so much alike, don't you think?

Collectors are very keen on details. See these two Darth Vader models? The first is from "Episode 6: Return of the Jedi"; the other is from "Episode 4: Revenge of the Sith." If you take off Darth Vader 4's helmet, you'll see that his face is red. In the movie, his face just got burned. But the face of Darth Vader 6 is white, because it's already healed. Darth Vader 4 is more expensive. There are only 500 pieces of this model. In the Philippines, there are only six.

Clothes

If an outfit has character, I buy it right away. I don't care if it's not branded, as long as it's my style and it looks good on me.

I like wearing white. People often see me in tank tops. If they think I wear the same shirts again and again, I must tell them, "*Marami po akong* white—*isang dosena po*."

Hats

When I buy woven hats—like buri or raffia—I get two of each kind but in different colors and designs.

What do I look for? A design that fits my overall style. I popularized the cowboy hat and the fedora here. I recently bought a couple of hats a la Puff Daddy and Ludacris. They're perfect for my all-white getups.

When you buy hats, don't pick tight ones. *Sasakit ang ulo mo*. Seriously, there are hats for every head size. Get something that's one size bigger.

Note that Jennifer Lopez wears her hat sideways. That's the way it should be.

Shoes

I got my latest pair of Muhammad Ali Adidas sneakers for P2,700, from a store in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. This used to be sold for P4,500 in malls. When I saw it, I grabbed it. I also bought this pair of Stan Smiths there for a really low prize.

I have white, red and black boots, in almost the same styles. I bought them in Malaysia when we shot "Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel" there.

These pairs of what I call "McDonald shoes" (bulky and loud) I had especially made. One is made of crocodile skin, the other of cheetah skin (laughs). Seriously, these are perfect matches for my kilts.

When you shop for shoes, pick a pair that suits your personality.

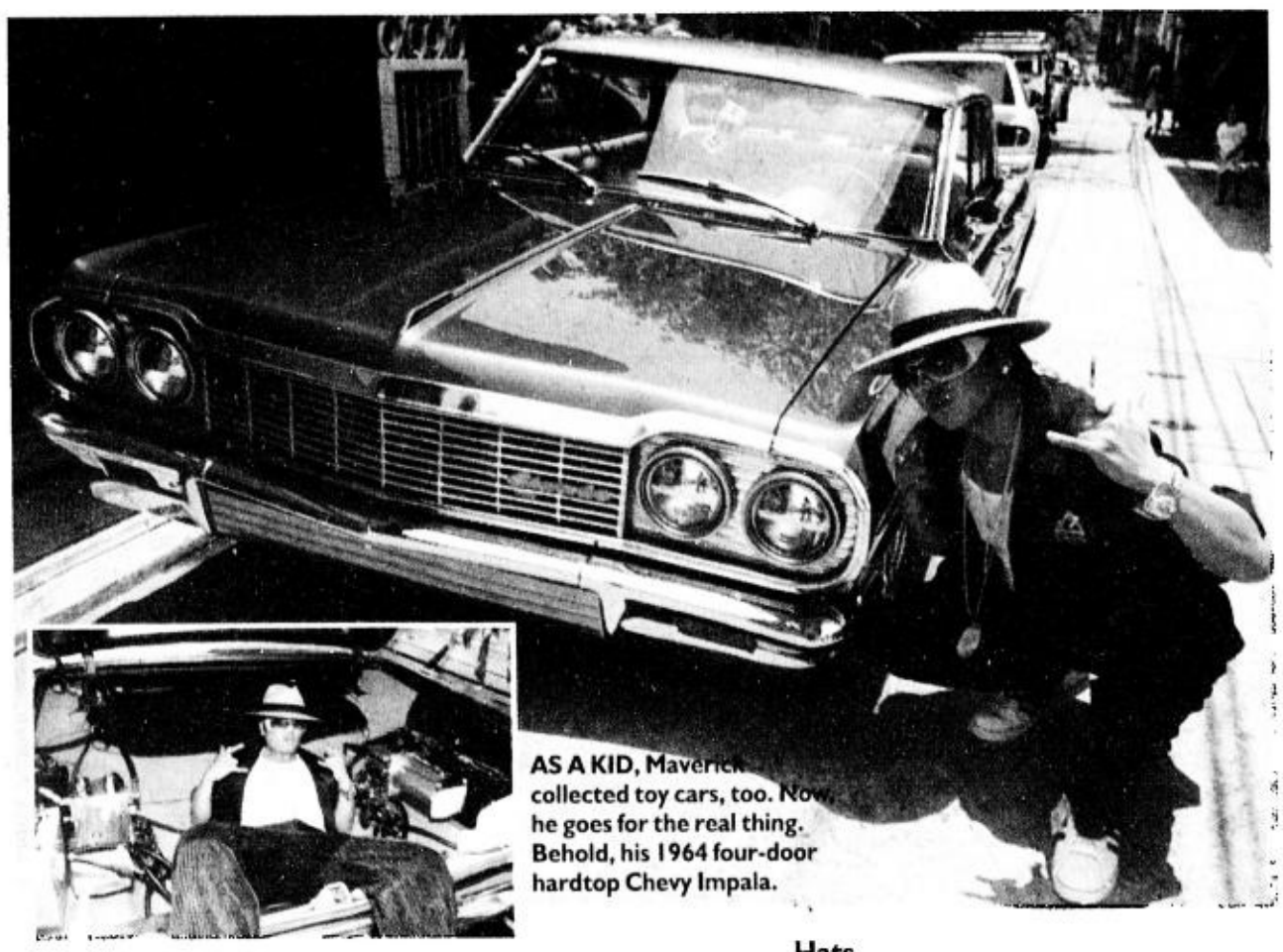
Accessories

Silver accessories are "in." I use them because they look good with hip-hop clothes, which I like a lot.

I buy accessories that reflect my character (shows huge pendants with rhinestones and long chains).

I inherited most of my gold jewelry from my dad, Franchot. *Pwede isangla ito* (laughs). My golden pimp rod (scepter) is made of some gold bars from Yamashita's treasure (laughs).

I don't like dark shades. *Hindi ako mukhang don* (lord or gentleman). I like light brown shades, with a touch of gold. I prefer really big ones—perfect for the shape of my face. The underlying principle in buying shades is that the lens should cover your cheek bones. Also, they should resemble a cat's eyes, with sides pointed upwards. That way, you'll look happy.



AS A KID, Maverick collected toy cars, too. Now, he goes for the real thing. Behold, his 1964 four-door hardtop Chevy Impala.

"SHADES should cover cheekbones."

"TRY to buy only one line—not like me."

"PORMA before function."

OUT OF THE CLOSET

BROWN horse for his Lone Ranger

"I GOT him!"

"ALWAYS pick hats that are one size bigger."

JOEY Marquez

BENJIE Paras

Joey slugs Benjie

THEY HAVE KISSED AND MADE UP BUT for a while there, witnesses say, it seemed Joey Marquez and Benjie Paras never would.

During a recent taping of their GMA 7 sitcom "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," Joey reportedly slugged Benjie for cracking an STD joke that he affixed to Alma Moreno's name.

RUSHES

Turns out, Joey has this policy: No below-the-belt wisecracks about the mothers of his children.

What about Kris?

Gee, that doesn't cover Kris, does it?

Where to, Echo?

Has Jericho Rosales left Star Magic? Does this mean—or is it because—"Panday" prematurely lost its spark?

ROBIN Padilla

Bolting season

Heard Robin Padilla has also bolted ABS-CBN for GMA 7. Rushes sources say the deal's sealed. The official word from GMA 7 is: "Nothing's final."

Which means something's being finalized?

Yes, Bosing?

Remember that on-cam interview when Pia Guanio asked Vic Sotto about a rumor linking them romantically? What did he say again?

PIA Guanio

No to Fuel

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Former "American Idol" contestant Chris Daughtry said he has turned down an offer to be lead singer for the band Fuel. *AP*

KAT McPhee

Kat's man

Speaking of "AI," runner-up Katharine McPhee has admitted she has a boyfriend, 41-year-old Nick Cokas. That must be the reason she had a hard time acting her age.

First impressions on 'Calla Lily' and 'Captain Barbell'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE INITIAL episodes of some new TV series, the better to clue you in early on their plus and minus points:

"Calla Lily" on Channel 2 tells the melodramatic story of young female twins (named Calla and Lily, of course) whose mother (Ana Roces) is working abroad.

Her absence plunges her loved ones into a series of unhappy situations and events—her father (Johnny Delgado) looks down on her husband and practically adopts one of the girls, causing a rich-poor dichotomy to sunder their little family, etc.

The show subjects the little girls to a number of pressures and other experiences that often bring them to the point of tears. But the young actress who plays both girls is a feisty performer, so the pathos in her weeping sequences generally doesn't deteriorate into bathos.

On the TV melodrama scene, that's a good thing!

On point of plot development, it's till early days, so it isn't clear how the story's central conflicts will come to a head and resolve themselves.

We're prepared to wait, but we wish that the show galvanizes its main action more briskly and resolutely, so we can appreciate why this tale about tearful twins is being told, beyond its ability to reduce viewers to trembling heaps of empathetic protoplasm.

'Barbell' notes

On GMA-7, the big, new series is "Captain Barbell," with Richard Gutierrez playing both the home-grown hero and his Kawawa alter ego, Teng.

Alas, the "pathetic" alter ego role is too much of a stretch for hunky Richard, who has a hard time looking awkward, insecure and oppressed.

At this point in the storytelling, the alter ego has most of the scenes, so Richard's ineptitude at playing the inept lad is a major problem of the show.

As far as the story goes, the production's dramatization and visualization is generally eventful, but they also make too many references to the iconic tale of Jor-El, Clark Kent and Superman.

The show's writers should strive to be more creative and Pinoy, because their work will otherwise suffer in comparison to the original.

We also note that the battling aliens in the show are supposed to come from an extremely advanced civilization, and yet, when they fight each other, they often end up resorting to mere fisticuff. How retro-"advanced" can you get?!

Also noticeable is the lack of vitality and cleverness of the child actor who plays Richard's alter ego character as a boy. How can a kid who's supposed to be so physically powerful have such a wan and listless persona?

Another problem is the show's poor use of some of the gifted actors in its cast. Jackielou Blanco is in the show, but as of last viewing, she was made to do very little, just looking ornery and nasty as a relative who didn't like the boy.

Jackielou can do this with two eyes closed and both arms tied behind her back, so please give her more challenging scenes, before she falls asleep in front of the cameras!

Finally, we note that, to make Richard's *kawawa* character even more pathetic, he's constantly assaulted by what looks like an endless stream of kiddie and teen *kontrabida*.

This melodramatic ploy quickly overstays its welcome, so we hope that the show's writers can think of other ways to keep their lead character productively miserable.

World theater festival

The ongoing International Theater Festival at the CCP ends on June 25. Make a beeline for these treats: "Perigrinatious," a collaborative performance about HIV-AIDS between the Philippines and Australia, at 8 p.m. on June 9 and 3 p.m. on June 11-13.

June 16 and 18 at 8 p.m., "Zsa Zsa Zaturnah," a Tanghalang Pilipino production. June 22 and 23 at 3 p.m., Japan's "The Coffee Shop within the Play (Unravel Noh)."

June 23 at 8 p.m., "Condor Conquest of the Galaxy: Jupiter," also from Japan. June 22-23 at 8 p.m. and June 24-25 at 3 p.m., "Godot: Wer Is You," based on Samuel Beckett's classic play, featuring a Filipino cast directed by Alain Timar. Call 832-1125 local 1606-1607.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pump prices of diesel seen increasing by P1-P2 per liter /B3

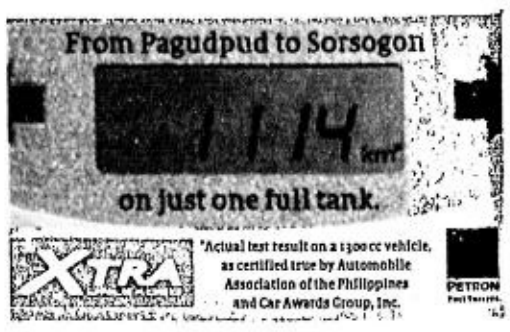
Merrill Lynch remains bullish on RP prospects /B5

Website: www.inq7money.net

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph



Forex reserves hit record $20.85B

PRESIDENT Arroyo, with (from left) Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Federation of Filipino Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Francis Chua, Le Club French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines' Bernard Flour and Trade Secretary Peter Favila, listens to one of the speakers at the second joint membership dinner of the International Network of Business Organizations at the Westin Philippine Plaza on Tuesday. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

End-May level helps keep peso stable

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RE-serves surged to a record-high $20.94 billion in end-May from $20.85 billion a month before despite some outflows from the government's Brady bond buyback, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. attributed the increase in the country's GIR to earnings from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and investments abroad as well as the national government's deposit of the proceeds from project loans funded by bilateral and multilateral donors.

"These inflows, however, were partly offset by principal and interest payments of foreign exchange obligations of the BSP and the national government," Tetangco said, noting the government had retired some of its Brady bonds during the month.

Taking advantage of the sharp peso appreciation, the government replicated the debt management tack pursued by Latin Amer-

FOREX/ B2

Peso nears 53:$1 on US interest rate worries

THE PESO YESTERDAY SLUMPED nearer to the 53:$1 barrier in step with a regional currency decline on possible interest rate increases by the US Federal Reserve.

The local currency fell to an intra-day low of 52.95 before closing at 52.92 against the greenback, shedding 8 centavos from Tuesday's finish of 52.84:$1.

Total value traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $390.98 million.

But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. assured the public that there was still a comfortable differential between the BSP's overnight rates and the comparative benchmark in the United States.

"If you look at our policy rates, it's at 7.5 percent for overnight borrowing while the US Fed Fund is currently at 5 percent," he told reporters yesterday.

At the same time, Tetangco said it was not 100-percent sure yet that the US Fed would indeed raise its interest rates some more despite a recent statement from US Fed chair Ben Bernanke that the institution would remain vigilant to threats of inflation.

He added that local treasury bill rates, whose differentials between historic levels and offshore benchmarks had turned negative, was already moving up before the Bureau of Treasury cancelled its regular auction of government securities.

"We'll have to continue to monitor that (US Fed move). Although the latest statements indicate that they might (raise) given their concern about inflation, it's not for sure," Tetangco said.

Tetangco added that the peso continued to be supported by foreign exchange flows from overseas Filipino workers as well as fresh investments into the local stock market. He denied speculations that the BSP was intervening by selling dollars to stem the peso's depreciation past the key psychological barrier at 53:$1.

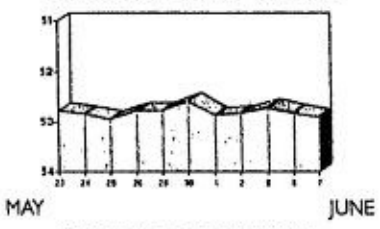
The government's economic program had assumed that the exchange rate would range between 51 and 53 to the US dollar this year.

Analysts said there was now a 70-percent probability that the US Fed Open Market Committee would sustain its two-year monetary tightening cycle with another quarter-percentage increase during its next meeting on June 29.

Other Asian currencies, particularly the Korean won and Singaporean dollar, likewise tumbled against the US dollar yesterday. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.92 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 7, 2006

¥113.26 = $1

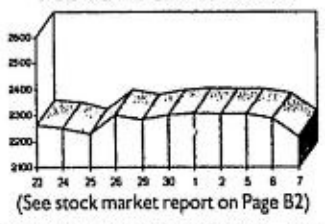
As of 5 p.m., June 7, 2006

GOLD: $623.50-624.00

per ounce Hong Kong, June 7, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks track Wall St. slump

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 3.12 percent lower yesterday, tracking sharp losses on Wall Street over the past two days in the face of concerns that US interest rates might rise further, dealers said.

They said investors were shaken after US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke and other senior Fed officials warned that inflation remained a risk and rates could be raised to contain it even as the economy slowed.

SHARES/ B3

Emotion. Not wasted motion.

5

BMW 5 Series

The new BMW 520 Diesel. Performance. Efficiency.

• The advantage of a refined BMW Diesel.

The 520d delivered 21.7 kms per liter at the recently concluded Department of Energy Fuel Economy Run, which makes it the most fuel efficient car in its segment.

• The soul of a sports car.

The 520d accelerates from 0 to 100 kph in 8.7 seconds and delivers 340Nm of pulling power, with a top speed of 223 kph.

• The comfort of a luxury sedan.

The BMW 520d offers the driving comfort and equipment level typical of the BMW 5 Series.

The new BMW 5 Series. Executive Arrival.

BMW Philippines

Sheer Driving Pleasure

Autohaus BMW 184 L. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6381734 • Fax (02) 4380419 • Prestige Cars BMW 7324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel (02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8107325 • Autozentrum BMW Madiga Business Park, Commonwealth Avenue, Batong, Metropolis Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 Fax (02) 772 6025 • Klassik BMW 20 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7810688 • Fax (02) 7314433 • Premier Cars BMW LGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • Performance Auto BMW Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel (032) 2563491 • Fax (032) 2563492

If it ain't 'bulok'

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR TOKEN EFFORT AT "GOOD GOVERnance," that thing called PCGG, seems to have become efficient overnight.

The PCGG had this 20-year-old case before the Sandiganbayan involving the shares of Trans Middle East (TMES) in that troublesome Equitable PCI Bank.

Tessie Sy, the daughter of SM mall operator Henry Sy, apparently wanted to boot out TMES from the EPCIB board.

And so the Sandiganbayan decided to REimpose a 10-year-old TRO on the EPCIB shares of TMES, thus preventing it from exercising its rights as stockholder.

Of course TMES had to answer the court, and as answer to the answer of TMES, the PCGG submitted a 100-page document—the day after the TMES filing. I smell something here—i.e. "bulok."

Look at that. ONE day for 100 pages! And this is the government office that, in the past, never filed anything on time, always asking the court for all sorts of extension.

Our info is that a private law firm is preparing the documents for PCGG. The law firm also took keen interest in the TMES case, fielding lawyers to watch out for it.

It so happens that the SM group retains the law firm, and as everybody knows, except those action stars in the Senate, TMES has been fighting the SM group.

And that's the way the PCGG does things, obviously being swayed by business interests. So when do we abolish the commission and save some of our tax money?

* * *

ACTUALLY, those who are attacking Pacific Plan, a pre-need education company of the Yuchengco group, are insinuating that money was stolen from the company. Hmm.

For one, the entire pre-need education industry has a problem. Four companies are out in the open with their liquidity problem. They are, aside from PPI, the biggest-of-them-all College Assurance Plan (CAP), Platinum Plans and TPG. The SEC is also watching out for three more, namely Primanila, AMA and Pryce.

The problem is the no-limit, open-ended plans, ever since tuition fees started going up to another galaxy. That's why pre-need companies no longer sell such plans.

Unfortunately for PPI, there is a group among its open-ended plan holders who belong to the upper class. They are highly educated, articulate, and well connected—particularly in media. Those plan holders send their kids to exclusive schools.

So much so that only 2 out of 10 open-ended plan holders get P40 of every P100 paid out by PPI in the past. In comparison, some 5 of the rest of the 10 get only P30. Is that fair to the other silent group of plan holders?

Still, PPI continued to give out benefits, and none of its check payments ever bounced. One reason is that PPI only has 18,000 of such open-ended plans, while the other companies have at least 100,000 each.

But why is the bad publicity directed solely against PPI? Well, it's a Yuchengco company. You can get more out of doing bad publicity against a taipan.

* * *

THIS CUTE administration of Gloriaetta, or at least its hangers-on in the energy sector, is forcing Meralco to enter into a "supply contract" with the YNN consortium.

Almost two years ago, YNN won the bidding for the Masinloc power plant. Up to now YNN has yet to pay for the plant. Surprisingly, Napocor never made any move to forfeit the $11-million bond of YNN.

It seems that YNN really did not have the money. And so it must look for other investors. It found one in Ranhill Berhad (a little known Malaysian group), which nevertheless did not want to take any risk at all by asking for the "supply contract" with Meralco.

To facilitate the "supply contract," the Energy Regulatory Commission came out with the suspicious "Resolution 21." This, in effect, scrapped a major ERC rule that compels power distributors like Meralco to conduct public bidding for their supply contract. The famous Resolution 21 suspended the rule.

Now, linked to the suspension was ERC Commissioner Jesus Alcordo, who nevertheless denied that he ever signed it. Well, I have a copy of the resolution. Alcordo's signature is there. Do I hear him say it must be a forgery?

Still, the connection between Alcordo and the main man behind YNN, a certain Sunny Sun (distributor of Duraflex wires and cables), is undeniable. They have been in business together since the 1990s in companies like East Asia Power and Duracom Mobile Power.

Remember that before he became regulator of the power sector as ERC commissioner, Alcordo was also president of Napocor and then DOE undersecretary.

Four years ago, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile also saw the cosy relationship between Alcordo and Sunny Sun. It was Enrile who exposed Alcordo, as Napocor president, for giving his business partner Sunny Sun a handsome commission (P350 million) for a supply contract with Napocor.

Now, let's say the hangers-on in this cute administration force Meralco to enter into the supply contract with YNN. Is it fair to the other power producers? Also, will investors still take interest in the other Napocor plants up for privatization? I think so too.

* * *

LABOR SECRETARY Patricia Sto. Tomas, as reward for fierce loyalty to Gloriaetta, reportedly will replace banker Antonio Alindogan as DBP chair. What is it again they say about a square thing in a round opening?

Look, Dick, look—hard working as she may be, clean and honest too, Sto. Tomas was never a banker all her life. And the DBP chair is a working chair. It is not a stress-free job that the stressed-out Sto. Tomas wanted this late in her life. Moreover, the pay is not really that great. I thought she deserves better.

On the other hand, appointed DBP chair three months ago, Alindogan got cheers from our aid donors like the World Bank and the ADB. He was a member of the Monetary Board and he has been a banker all his working life.

I mean, come on, if it ain't broke, why fix it?

* * *

NOWADAYS car companies are importing vehicles with abandon, particularly the SUVs and the luxury cars, or those with prohibitive taxes.

Question: Are they paying the right taxes?

From what I gathered, the Bureau of Customs has a problem in identifying the real importers of the cars. One such importer is the PGA Cars, dealer of classy cars like Porsche and Jaguar.

Did the bureau ever check the names of the importers, who could just be anybody whose names appeared in the telephone directory?

Forex . . .

From page B1

ican countries, which had bounced back from their fiscal problems like Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, by retiring $411 million or 53 percent of its remaining Brady bonds last month.

The Brady bonds were named after Nicholas Brady, the Treasury chief of the United States during the term of President Ronald Reagan, who proposed the issuance of these bonds to help heavily indebted countries like the Philippines restructure their commercial bank debt starting in the 1980s.

The GIR, consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights (the currency used by the International Monetary Fund) and foreign investments, is an indicator of the ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing.

Tetangco said the latest GIR level was enough to cover about 4.4 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income.

Nine years after the currency turmoil that depressed asset prices across the region, Southeast Asia has emerged much stronger and wiser but still is not completely immune to potentially contagious shocks, financial experts said.

Mansoor Dailami and Hans Timmer, authors of the World Bank's Global Development Finance 2006 launched at the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, said the strong build-up of foreign reserves was among the reasons for the optimism in the region.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 7, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36	35.5	35.5	588,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53	50.5	50.5	1,985,600
China Banking Corp.	895	895	890	890	2,910
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	9,640,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	70.5	72	70.5	72	713,100
International Exch. Bank	41	41.5	41	41	32,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33	33.5	720,800
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19.5	19.5	18.75	18.75	251,100
Security Bank Corp.	50	51	50	51	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	46.5	46.5	46	46	23,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	32	32	32	32	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1785	1785	1785	1785	30
Ivantage Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	3,298,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45.5	45.5	44.5	45	182,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	46.5	45.5	46	331,800
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	4,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	349,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	2,237,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.95	6,921,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	830,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	13,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	135,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	1,034,400
Pancake House Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	11,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,147,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	64	63	64	134,200
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	202,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.75	1,216,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	5,560,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	250,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	1,974,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4,530,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.0925	0.0825	0.0825	5,700,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	360,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Ayala Corp.	390	392.5	367.5	370	472,850
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	350,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	47,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.8	3,841,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	34,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.91	640,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	56,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	4,417,000
Dmci Holdings, Inc.	3.9	4	3.75	3.8	4,795,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3.1	305,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	80,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	70,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,470,000
SM Investments Corp.	226	227	224	224	113,860
South China Resources Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Vivant Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	70,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	1,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.5	12.5	11.75	12.25	12,594,600
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	2,262,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.98	1.98	1,214,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	60,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.59	11,120,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	80,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	8,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.36	12,564,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	630,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	5,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	6,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.48	35,751,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.215	6,030,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	155,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	303,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.7	7.7	5,761,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	210,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	14.75	14.75	13,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	2,631,000
Globe Telecom Inc	880	880	855	865	66,060
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,910,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1980	1980	1950	1960	149,250
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.46	2.55	4,908,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	2,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.26	1.26	114,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	166,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	122,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	588,300
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	49,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	210,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	700,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	80,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	75,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,050,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.1	3	3	280,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2	1.98	2	249,000
Paxys Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	593,500
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	60,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	469,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	14,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,530,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	6,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	40,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	109,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	6,563,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.4	3.55	3.35	3.45	9,898,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	11,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	740,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,200,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	703,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.12	477,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16	16	15.5	15.5	473,900
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,400
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	15.25	15.25	15	15	399,300

DISCLOSURES

ERRAMON I. Aboitiz, Antonio R. Moraza, Stephen G. Paradies, Thelmo Y. Cunanan, Lucito L. Sioson and Edwin R. Bautista have been appointed as directors of **Union Bank of the Philippines**. Meanwhile, Armand F. Braun Jr. and Raoul M. Inocentes have been elected as independent directors.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty and Holdings Corp. has disclosed the sale of its 26,111,010 IBank shares to Union Bank in a block sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange held on June 5.

* * *

ATN Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 13, 1 p.m. at RCBC Plaza in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 15 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 7, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779362	1.000000	52.8400
Japan	Yen	0.006882	0.008830	0.4666
United Kingdom	Pound	1.450238	1.860800	98.3247
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100440	0.128874	6.8097
Switzerland	Franc	0.641398	0.822978	43.4862
Canada	Dollar	0.700550	0.898876	47.4966
Singapore	Dollar	0.492364	0.631752	33.3818
Australia	Dollar	0.578462	0.742225	39.2192
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.067329	2.652590	140.1629
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207797	0.266624	14.0884
Brunei	Dollar	0.490814	0.629763	33.2767
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020373	0.026140	1.3812
UAE	Dirham	0.212216	0.272294	14.3880
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.283100	67.7990
Argentina	Peso	0.252835	0.324412	17.1419
Brazil	Real	0.343407	0.440626	23.2827
Denmark	Kroner	0.134112	0.172079	9.0927
India	Rupee	0.017013	0.021829	1.1534
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213993	0.274574	14.5085
Mexico	New Peso	0.068939	0.088456	4.6740
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489673	0.628299	33.1993
Norway	Kroner	0.128635	0.165052	8.7213
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012990	0.016667	0.8807
South Africa	Rand	0.114835	0.147345	7.7857
Korea	Won	0.000827	0.001061	0.0561
Sweden	Kroner	0.108592	0.139334	7.3624
Syria	Pound	0.015014	0.019264	1.0179
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024318	0.031202	1.6487

TOSHIBA

3 Years warranty

TDP- S8
- 2000 ANSI Lumens
- 2000:1 Contrast
- SVGA, DLP
- Instant Shutdown
- 2.0Kg.

P 59,990.00

FREE Toshiba DVD Player

No brand excites you more than we do.

TDP- SC25
- 1800 ANSI Lumens
- 2000:1 Contrast
- SVGA, DLP
- Document Camera
- 3.9Kg.

FREE 60 X 60 Tripod Projection Screen

TDP- P8
- 1500 ANSI Lumens
- 2100:1 Contrast
- Auto Keystone Correction
- Remote Mouse/ Powerpoint Control
- 1 Kg.

TDP- P75
- 2300 ANSI Lumens
- 2000:1 Contrast
- Auto Keystone Correction
- Remote Mouse/ Powerpoint Control
- 1.9 Kg.

TDP- FF1
- 400 lux
- 1500:1 Contrast
- Both AC and Battery powered
- LED light source
- 815g (w/ battery)
- No Lamp

World's Smallest Projector

TRICOM

TRICOM DYNAMICS INC.
345 Metro House Bldg. Sen. Jil Puyat Avenue Makati City; Tel. no:890-6525 ; Fax no.:890-0698

Cebu Branch: 30 Machay Bldg., Gorordo Ave , Cebu City 6000; Tel No.: 231-5117/ 232-6385/ 232-6391; Fax No.: 231-0681
Davao Branch: Pelayo Bldg. Juan Luna St., Davao City 8000; Tel No.: 227-4137/38; Fax: 227-4147
Cagayan de Oro Branch: Moreno Bldg., Gusa Highway, Cagayan de Oro City 9000; Tel. No.: 733-158/ 733-273; Fax: 855-5388

AUTHORIZED DEALERS:

COSMOTECH (THE PROJECTOR WORLD) MAKATI 759-2454 SM NORTH EDSA 920-9964/50 CEBU (032) 442-3202 DAVAO (082) 225-8693 COMPLINK MARKETING INC SM MEGAMALL 6373969 6316958 ROBINSON'S GALLERIA 6329856 to 97 6387048 PARK SQUARE 1 8931489 8931491 8931493 SM NORTH EDSA 9209140 to 41 9292857 Shangri-La Ortigas 6374444 to 45 E-Hub Makati 893-1491 893-1489 893-1490 E-HUB Alabang Town Center 7752140 to 45 E-hub Eastwood 687 3212, 687 1438 E-Hub Alabang 775-0140 to 41 SILICON VALLEY-ALABANG TOWN CENTER 8078087 PARK SQUARE 1 8126734 SM MANILA 5253218 SM MEGAMALL 6331724 SM BICUTAN 8229751 to 51 SM NORTH EDSA 9275831 SM CITY STA ROSA (049) 534 2526-27 SM CITY CEBU (032) 234 0219/ (032) 234 0456 ELECTROWORLD HEAD OFFICE 7472054 4166061 ABENSON SHANGRI-LA 6388019 6381719 PARK SQUARE 1 8132778 8123860 8123866 WALTERMART MAKATI 8929119 8440596 OCTAGON COMPUTER SUPERSTORE FESTIVAL MALL 809-5475 MEGAMALL 635-9080/635-9311 NORTH EDSA 928-6141/ 928-6415 PARK SQUARE 867-1708 to 06/04 ROBINSON'S MANILA 524-2572/ 524-2533 SM MANILA 524-3974 / 524-3972 SM STA MESA 714-8149 / 715-0136 CEBU 1 (032) 231-7394 to 55 CEBU 2 (032) 255-0778 ILOILO 2 (033) 338-0236 CAGAYAN DE ORO (08822) 729-9034 ILIGAN (063) 223-2401 DAVAO (082) 306-0531 CAGAYAN DE ORO (08822) 729-9034 AMESCO (THE FIFTH AVENUE) PARKSQUARE 1, 817-6726 to 38 SHANGRI-LA 633-8315 to 17, SM MEGAMALL, 683-0745 ALABANG, 772-2084, SM NORTH EDSA 925-2838 928-4482 of 84 ACCENT MICRO PRODUCTS SM MEGAMALL 634-1204 SM NORTH EDSA 426-8829 927-7330 FESTIVAL MALL 771-0779 PARKSQUARE 1 816-180403 PC LIVE SM MEGAMALL 633-1927 634-2438 NORTH EDSA 925-5888

Pump prices of diesel seen increasing by ₱1-₱2 per liter

PRICE adjustment to depend on the foreign exchange movement and on how the tariff reduction order will be implemented.

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER HOLDING OFF INcreases in diesel prices in the past past two weeks, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said there might be a P1 to P2 per liter hike in the price of this petroleum product in the coming weeks.

In an interview at the sidelines of yesterday's Makati Business Club meeting, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said the price adjustment would depend not only on the world market prices of oil but also on the foreign exchange movements in the coming days as well as on how Malacañang's tariff reduction order would be implemented.

Under the implementing rules and regulations of Executive Order 527, the current 3-percent tariff on crude and refined petroleum products will go down to 2 percent if the regional benchmark Dubai crude hits $66 a barrel, and that of diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for finished products reaches $88 a barrel.

These price levels should have been sustained for the last two weeks to merit a tariff reduction.

The next trigger points, which will bring the tariff rate to 1 percent, are $75 a barrel for Dubai crude and $88 a barrel for MOPS-based diesel.

The import tariff will be scrapped if Dubai crude hits $85 a barrel and MOPS-based diesel remains at $88 a barrel.

To ensure that the effect of the tariff reduction will trickle down to the masses, the Department of Energy-formulated guidelines provide that oil companies should reflect their tariff reduction savings on the price of diesel sold to the public transport sector.

This corresponding discount will be on top of the P1-a-liter diesel markdown that oil firms are already providing public utility vehicles in many of their stations.

Chua said oil firms would most likely need to recover between P1 and P2 a liter for their diesel products.

He said that as local pump prices continue to rise, the domestic market would likely shrink by another 5-10 percent this year, following a 10-percent contraction last year.

According to data from the DOE, domestic sales in 2005 dropped to 109 million barrels from 118 million barrels last year.

Net foreign buying soars to ₱25B

VAT law implementation boosted investor sentiment in Jan-May

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NET FOREIGN BUYING IN THE STOCK MARket from January to May ballooned to P25 billion, more than double the P11.9 billion recorded in the same period last year, the Philippine Stock Exchange said.

PSE president Francis Lim said the performance was boosted by the government's resolve to implement the expanded value added tax (eVAT).

Total foreign buying surged 35 percent to P104.61 billion, outpacing the 25.3 percent growth in foreign selling to P116.14 billion.

Heavy selling was seen following reports on the possibility of suspending the VAT on petroleum products and electricity.

Lim said foreign buying recovered after the government clarified its position on the issue.

"I believe this (high foreign buying) is a vote of confidence in the country's economic health."

Lim also said the stock market had enough momentum to push stock prices higher and boost trading volumes.

Noting other favorable trends in the market, Lim said stock prices, as tracked by the PSEi, rose 9.5 percent to 2,296.11 points in the first five months of the year, from 2,096.04 last year. Value turnover jumped 8.6 percent to P213.45 billion from last year's P196.47 billion.

Total market capitalization or the value of total stocks traded in the bourse climbed 14.2 percent to P6.8 trillion from P5.95 trillion last year, the bulk of which was concentrated on the financial sector.

Based on a PSE review, the market capitalization of the financial sector rose 13.3 percent to P4.8 trillion in the first five months.

The services sector followed with P643.3 billion in market capitalization, up 17.1 percent from year-ago.

In the meantime, the mining and oil sector posted the biggest increase of 50 percent in market valuation to P47.4 billion from P31.6 billion.

The average daily value turnover, which amounted to P1.56 billion in 2005, hit P2.03 billion in the first five months of the year.

Telecommunication companies accounted for the biggest slice of the daily value turnover at P565.6 million, or 30 percent higher than the P434 million last year.

Listed firms in the transportation service and oil businesses posted the highest increase in the average daily value turnover. The transport sector grew 911.4 percent to P98.1 million while oil business soared 801 percent to P17.1 million.

By sector, prices of mining and oil stocks posted the biggest increase of 61.75 percent in May.

RP gets $250K in World Bank grant for BIR

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS APPROVED THE RElease of $250,000 in grant to the Philippines for the improvement of the tax collection efficiency of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which currently struggles to meet its revenue targets.

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank director for the Philippines, said the grant was intended for the updating of the BIR's taxpayers' database, rationalization of tax collection procedure, and training of its personnel on tax audit and collection strategies.

"The purpose of this grant is to improve the effectiveness of the Philippine government in revenue collection by strengthening the capacities for revenue management of the BIR," Amsberg said in a letter to the Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Updating the BIR's taxpayers' database was necessary in the revenue agency's agenda of tightening its audit procedure. The BIR earlier introduced strategies such as the use of industry benchmarks on income and tax payments, as well as third parties to verify the validity of income declarations of taxpayers.

The approval of the World Bank grant came after the BIR was reported to have registered a P7.3-billion collection shortfall in April. It was tasked to collect P78.6 billion during the month, but turned in only P71.3 billion.

The BIR has not yet released its tax collection performance in May, but Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said it was "difficult" month.

For the entire year, the BIR is required to collect P675.4 billion to help the national government achieve the goal of reducing the budget deficit from P146.8 billion last year to P125 billion this year.

"We (World Bank) do not look so much on monthly (performance). Overall, our assessment is that the government is very much on track to meeting its fiscal reform targets," Amsberg earlier told reporters.

However, Buñag earlier said the revenue agency might fall short of its tax-collection target for the full year, saying the goal was too high.

Stocks track Wall St. slump

From page B1

Wall Street sold off as a result and the regional markets suffered accordingly both Tuesday and yesterday.

The composite index shed 71.38 points to 2,218.42, the worst finish since April 11, when it settled at 2,217.38. The market traded to a low of 2,212.65 and a high of 2,289.80 points.

Volume was 696.4 million shares worth P1.42 billion. The broader all-shares index retreated 33.41 points to 1,400.87.

Losers led gainers 85 to 13, with 30 stocks unchanged.

"Just like other emerging markets, the Philippines has been adversely affected by these global worries," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

The sell-off "could be a second wave of portfolio realignment among fund managers" following a similar selldown two weeks ago, said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc. *AFP*

LOAN PROBLEMS?
- Do you need loans for working capital and business expansion ?
- Do you have past due loans that need to be restructured ?
- Is your bank foreclosing or has the bank foreclosed your collateral?

We can help you!!!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F LEGASPI SUITES, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 - 8184480 Fax No. 8193294 E-mail:dcc@pldtdsl.net

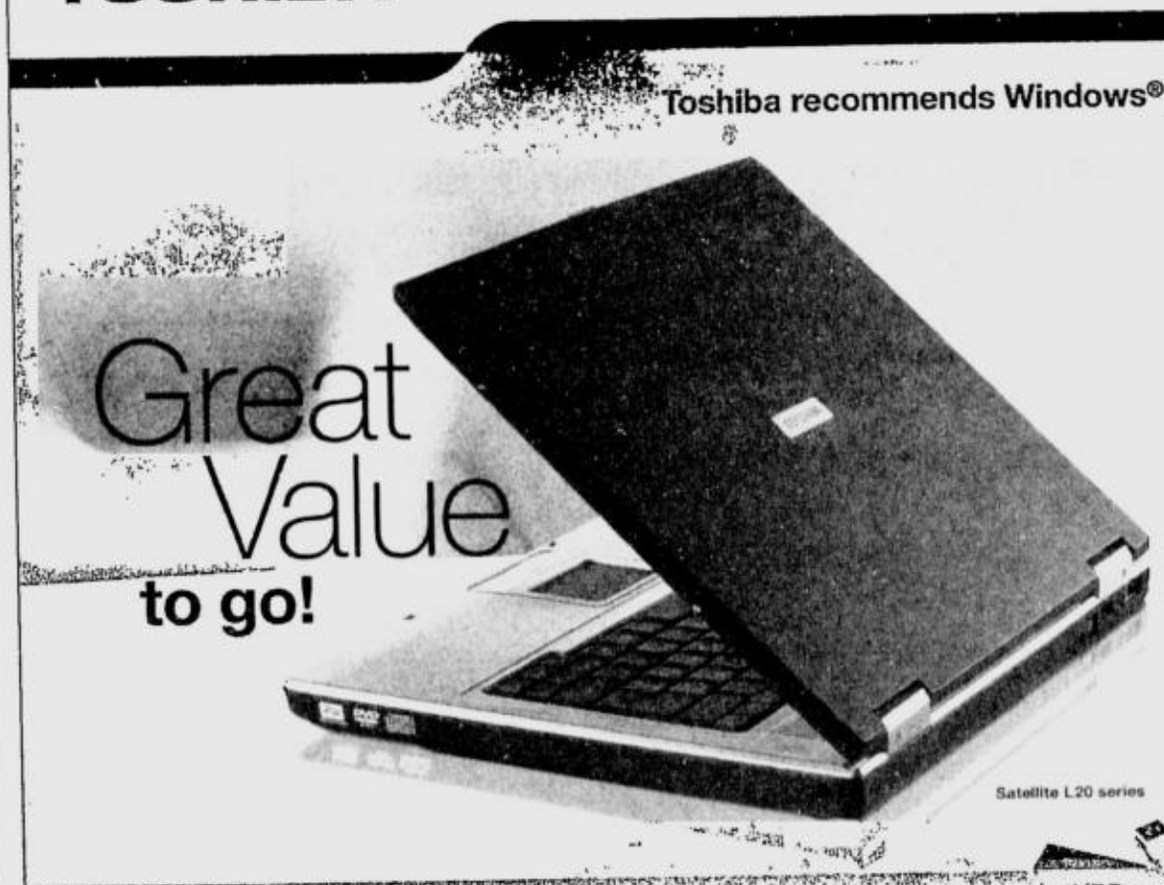
Your $ can earn more with PSBank's HIGHER RATES

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.00%	3.13%	3.25%	3.50%
2 months	3.13%	3.25%	3.38%	3.63%
3 months	3.25%	3.38%	3.38%	3.69%
6 months	3.25%	3.38%	3.44%	3.75%
12 months	3.38%	3.44%	3.50%	3.88%

*Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax

Open an account now at any PSBank branch nationwide!
PSBank U$Dollar TIME DEPOSIT
Text PSBANK USTD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000

TOSHIBA
Toshiba recommends Windows® XP.
Great Value to go!



Satellite L20 series

Equipped with Intel® Celeron® Mobile Technology, a stunning Clear SuperView display and a HDD protected by shock absorbers, the Satellite L20 has everything you need to get mobile, without being weighed down by a heavy price tag. Take off with great value today!

Satellite L20-C430
Model No: PSL2XL-01R007
All-in-one mobility at great value.

FREE
- Canon IP1200 Printer
- 256MB Kingston RAM

Total worth P5,000

- Intel® Celeron® M Processor 380 (1.6GHz, 1MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Tool
- 256MB DDR2 SDRAM
- 40GB HDD with shock absorber
- CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
- 15.0" XGA Clear SuperView TFT display
- ATI Radeon® Xpress 200M, up to 128MB VRAM
- SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology
- Integrated Wireless 802.11b/g
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

New Arrival P49,990

Talk-2-Toshiba
A 24/7 toll-free call-back service for warranty and technical support
OR call us at +65 6744 7717

Tricom Dynamics, Inc.
MAKATI Metro House Bldg., 349 San Gil Puyat Ave. Tel. 890-0525 to 32 Fax: 890-0698

intel celeron M

Satellite
Choose freedom.
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com

Your sales PROJECTION will clearly increase with Remaco Screens.

PRO-Series
Motorized projection screen
- remote controlled screen
- universal mounting kit for all types of mounting
- adjustable setting for desired up/down position

SAS-Series
Semi-Automatic Screen
- unique auto-gear mechanism allows screen to roll up smoothly
- precise stop position when pulled down
- ease of installation
- compact, lightweight, and user friendly

TRI-Series
Tripod Screen
- portable
- compact, lightweight, and user friendly
- flexible high-low case adjustments
- easy set up

RAS-Series
Rear Acrylic Screen
- high quality rear projection screen
- high resolution capability up to 1600 x 1200 pixels
- wide viewing angle and high contrast

REMACO
Call us up now for dealership details Tel. No. 899-3838 (Look for Allen)
SALES OFFICE 1407 PETRONA 1 BLDG ANGONO COR OSMEÑA STS. MAKATI CITY
TEL. # +63 2 899-8421 FAX # +63 2 899-8423
website: www.philcopy.net email: info@philcopy.net
PHILCOPY

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1
Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : MEZ Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
Location : Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Ibo, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description : Supply of Transportation, Manpower, Equipment and Supervision for the Collection of MEZ Segregated Solid Waste and Proper Disposal of Residual Waste at Designated Area
Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) : P8,592,702.14
Contract Duration : 12 months
Delivery Period : Within **30 days** from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have a) experience in undertaking a similar/related project within the last three (3) years, b) key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the project, c) a Permit to Dispose or an Agreement to Dispose with a DENR recognized sanitary landfill or controlled dumpsite and d) must not have an existing scrap buying business within MEZ I and MEZ II. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 31-June 13, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 16, 2006 2:00 p.m.
3. Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	June 30, 2006 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	July 1-6, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	July 7-12, 2006

Complete set of Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 to PEZA-MEZ I Cashier. Bids and other communications may be addressed to MEZ Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Flr., PEZA Admin Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu Cty.

The pre-bid conference and opening of bids shall be conducted at the Conference Room, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone I, Lapu-lapu City.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **BELENA B. SUELLO**
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 31 & June 8, 2006)

PNOC

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of Through Conduit Valves under FGT 61901
Approved Budget: **PHP 3,936,700.00**

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **June 6, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 15, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of June 29, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI – June 8 & 15, 2006)

FREE B.A. LOPEZ REVIEW FOR TOP 10% GRADUATES

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN

www.stmarycollege.net
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NURSING
Accepting Applications to All Year Levels!
School Year 2006-07
(Classes begin June 26, 2006)
Transfer Students
SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW
No. 11 J. de Mesa, San Juan
721-8938 to 39

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

FEDERICO ENCISO GUERRERO III

Mr. FEDERICO ENCISO GUERRERO III, whose photograph appears above, is no longer connected with Gold Label Resources Inc., Mr. Federico Enciso Guerrero III has been charged with multiple counts of Estafa under Crim. Case No. 33548 before Branch 73 of Regional Trial Court of Malabon City, under Crim Case No. JL00-8092 before Branch 56 of Metropolitan Trial Court of Malabon City and under Crim. Case No. JL00-8093 before Branch 56 of Metropolitan Trial Court of Malabon City. All transactions entered in with Mr. Federico Enciso Guerrero III shall no longer be honored by Gold Label Resources, Inc.

(PDI – June 8, 2006)

BUY * SELL * PAWN
WATCHES JEWELRY DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER IN TOWN
8342886
8040484

RUSH SALE
OWNER LEAVING FOR U.S.A. 1 BEDROOM CONDO UNIT 1706 TOWER B, ANTEL SEAVIEW ROXAS BLVD. MANILA
FULLY FURNISHED
MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE
CALL: 0910-647-0336 / (046) 431-1685

Send your resumé instantly.
JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Read Classifieds

More Classified Ads: Senate of the Philippines, Agusan del Sur Cooperative, Inc., & Philhealth Regional Office's Invitation to Bid on A12.

OBITUARIES

"I am the Resurrection and The Life; He who believes in Me shall live; and whoever lives and believe in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

SEVERO J. SANTIAGO, Brig. Gen. (ret.)

Founder and Chairman of Republic Telephone Company, Inc.
Chairman Emeritus of Telectronic Systems, Inc. Group of Companies

Has gone to his eternal rest in the peace of our Lord on June 6, 2006 at the age of 95.

His beloved wife
Severina Melo-Santiago

Children
Eleanor and Benjamin Lopez (†)
Jose Luis and Claudette Santiago
Virginia Santiago-Schoellen

Grandchildren
Maureen Santiago, Marilyn and Keith Kerr, Richard Santiago, Joyce and George Wang, Rina Schoellen and Bryan Santiago

Great Grandchildren
Matthew Wang, Aryanna Santiago, Charles Schoellen, Katharine Kerr, and Adam Wang

Other relatives and friends request prayers for his everlasting joy in the company of the angels and the saints.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, Christ the King Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Holy Mass will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2006 at 8 o'clock in the morning, Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque.

James S. Tan, M.D., MACP

Passed away May 25, 2006 at the age of 67 in Akron, Ohio, U.S.A.

Graduated in 1965 from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and trained in infectious disease at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. His present appointments include Chairman, Infectious Disease Section, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM), Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, NEOUCOM, Vice - chairman, Department of Internal Medicine, NEOUCOM, and Chairman, Department of Medicine, Akron City Hospital, (now Summa Health System). Served as Governor of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and Chairman, Admissions Committee, NEOUCOM. Dr. Tan was a Master of the ACP (MACP), Fellow of American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP), and Fellow of Infectious Disease Society of America. His numerous teaching awards include the NEOUCOM Liebelt/Wheeler Award, NEOUCOM Master Teacher Award, ACP Ohio Chapter Laureate Award, ACP Ohio Chapter Master Teacher Award, and the Infectious Disease Society of America Watanakunakorn Clinician Award. Dr. Tan authored and co-authored over 180 scientific publications and edited the Expert Guide to Infectious Diseases (2002) and co-edited "Ace the Boards in Microbiology"(2002). He was well known nationally and internationally as a speaker and lecturer on infectious disease and served as reviewer for and editor of numerous medical journals.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Guillermo Tancao and So Suy Po, and is survived by his wife, Mary June Ng; children, Stephanie Tan, M.D. (Gary Pinta, M.D.), Rowena Tan, Ph.D. (Michael Gasser, Ph.D.), Michael Tan, M.D. (Jacqueline Peckham); grandchildren, Drew, Allison and Hannah Pinta, and Nicholas Gasser, sisters Lily Tan Chua (Manila), Judy Tancao Lim (Manila), Jean Tancao Johnson (Oregon) and brother John Tancao (Manila).

Memorial contributions will be appreciated in favor of UP Manila Development Foundation, Inc. for the UP College of Medicine Centennial Endowment Fund, care of Dean Cecilia V. Tomas (526-4170; ctomas@cm.upm.edu.ph).

IN LOVING MEMORY
On the First Death Anniversary of

DIRECTOR
LUIGI SANTIAGO
(of Nginiig TV Show)

who passed on to Eternal Life on June 8, 2005

Mass offering are as follows:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	June 8, 2006 12:15 P.M. Mass
Ritz Towers 2003A Ayala Avenue, Makati City	June 8, 2006 7:30 P.M. Mass
Our Lady of Victories Jersey City, NJ, USA	June 11, 2006 12:00 NN

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

Roger, Irma, Nicolo, Armi & James Santiago

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me, will live, even though he die; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved
Honorato "René" Agustin Bonus
First Vice President, Prudentialife Plans, Inc.
(November 20, 1942 - June 6, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 6, 2006 at the age of 63.

His loving family, children & grandchild: **Chi, Delma, Michelle, Franz, Krystle, Mike** and **Mic-Mic**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on June 10, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

BRIG. GEN. JOSE SALDASOL ALCAÑESES (RET.)

Philippine Military Academy Class of 1955 of Sariaya, Quezon

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 5, 2006 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife **Grace**; children **Mary Rose, Anthony** and **Lisa, Veronica** and **Jed, Jomari** and **Grace, Debbie** and **Dino**; grandchildren **Miguel, Bea, Gino, Luigi, Diego, Addy**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the PNP Multi-Purpose Hall.

Death Notice

MONICA LAROSA LAYLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 2, 2006 at the age of 81.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Sitio Masagana, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Her body will be transferred to Padre Garcia, Batangas for interment on June 10, 2006. Her family request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

We design obituaries for free.

COL DOMINADOR M VERGARA MC

UST MEDICINE CLASS '53
Oct 10, 1923 – June 5, 2006

Loving Wife: **Teresita**
Children: **Dominador Jr., Roberto & Maricel**
Grandchild: **Mary Nicoline**
Relatives: **Simang Chua & Jeffrey Aguilar**

The body lies in the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani Memorial Chapel in Fort Bonifacio and interment will be on June 10, 2006, Saturday. 10:00 a.m.

Camarines Norte pineapples on their way to South Korea

By Christine A. Gaylican

A SMALL FARMERS COOPERATIVE BASED in Camarines Norte has sealed a marketing agreement with Manisan International Trading Corp. to supply fresh queen variety pineapples to South Korea, the Department of Agriculture yesterday said.

In a statement, the DA said the Federation of Pineapple Growers of Basud, Camarines Norte has signed a marketing agreement with the trading firm after initially exporting some 30,000 kilos of pineapples to South Korea in the second quarter.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban, said the deal was a result of the country's participation in the recent Seoul Food Expo 2006 in March.

"This only proves the agricultural product's acceptability to this untapped market," Panganiban said.

He noted that for pineapple exports of the queen variety to be accepted, a new waxing formulation, recommended by Dr. Edralina Serrano of the Post-Harvest Horticulture Training and Research Center, has been adopted to pass South Korea's quarantine measures.

To ensure steady supply of queen pineapples to South Korea, the Agriculture Department has mobilized the DA-Regional Field Unit in Bicol to expand current agricultural lands suitable for pineapple planting in the province from the current 2,400 hectares.

To support the industry, DA has partnered with the local government unit of Basud by providing a P300,000-counterpart fund for the renovation of the pineapple packing house at Barangay Laniton, Basud.

Korea is one of the top five markets for Philippine food and other food preparations with exports reaching $256 million in 2004.

Due to the acceptability of the pineapples during the taste test, Panganiban said all pineapple exports to South Korea would strictly adhere to harvesting procedures and quarantine protocol acceptable to both countries.

Based on agreed specifications, the Basud Federation wouold export fruits weighing 800-120 grams each.

Merrill Lynch remains bullish on RP prospects

Bank says constitutional change is 'positive' move

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANKING GIANT MERRILL LYNCH HAS remained optimistic about the Philippines despite President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's waning public support.

"President Arroyo's popularity remains poor among the population, but this has not translated into heightened political risk, in our view," said Merrill Lynch's UK-based strategist Benoit Anne in a commentary dated June 6.

Anne said that it was clear that the opposition would launch a new impeachment complaint next month.

"This will likely cause substantial noise, but we think that the chances of Arroyo being impeached are, once again, quite limited," Anne said.

Over the short term, Merrill Lynch—which reaffirmed its "overweight (buy) recommendation on the Philippines—expects the political agenda to center on the proposal to change the Constitution to set up a parliamentary system.

While the odds of success are even—with political analysts assigning a 50 percent probability of success—Anne said the constitutional change would be a "positive" development in Merrill Lynch's view.

"The move to a parliamentary system would contribute to the streamlining of the decision-making process, as it would lead to a merger of both houses. It would also be cost-effective," Anne said.

On the fiscal front, Anne said the government was on track to meet its fiscal target for 2006, but the key would be to boost tax administration.

The analyst said the country's macroeconomic growth outlook appeared more bullish than initially projected.

It said the Philippines' gross domestic product output would likely grow by 5 percent for the year, picking up to 5.5 percent in 2007.

Two other foreign investment banks—Nomura Intl. (Hong Kong) Ltd. and US-based Bear Stearns & Co.— retained their positive outlook on the Philippines.

Nomura, in its Asian credit daily issued yesterday, agreed that the Philippines' consolidation program remained on track while the slowdown in inflation had reduced risks for further rate hikes.

Bear Stearns, on the other hand, was impressed by the country's 5.5 percent GDP growth in the first quarter despite the impact of the expanded value added tax imposed starting last February.

It predicted that the country would post a 5.8-percent GDP growth for 2006.

BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG

Kidapawan growers to tap European market

KIDAPAWAN CITY—FRUITS FROM THIS CITY will soon find their way to Europe after a European Union-based importer and a Davao City-based exporter closed deals with Kidapawan fruit growers.

This was realized during a business-matching activity here attended by Philippine Agriculture attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg Ann Abejuela and Europe-based importers.

Abejuela said that it was agreed during the business matching that Kidapawan fruit growers multipurpose cooperative, a federation of banana growers of North Cotabato, Nutri Prime Farms and others would send initial shipments of mangosteen, lanzones, mango and rambutan to Europe through Brussels-based importer Louise Baterna.

"Philippine mango has already penetrated the distinct European market. Through tedious study in handling and customized marketing arrangements, mangosteen, pomelo and other fruits can also make it in the European market," Baterna said in a statement.

Federico Ealdama of the Department of Trade and Industry here said a deal on the initial supply of 15 tons of cardava bananas a week was closed by the local growers with Davao City-based Snapsnax Ventures, a banana chips manufacturer exporting to China.

The delivery started last month.

Snapsnax Ventures will provide the transportation required to bring the banana products from Kidapawan City to Davao City.

Meanwhile, FBIC Reefer Corporation, Gothong Shipping Lines and MCJ Trucking are looking at ways to cut the time it takes to deliver the fruits to the market, which should reduce the expenses of fruit growers.

These transport groups committed to deliver the fruits from North Cotabato to Manila within 48 hours.

An initial 32.4 tons of *lakatan* bananas had been served.

The shorter transport time from the producer and the consumer in handling of local commodity provides an attractive marketing advantage for local fruits in the domestic market, he said.

Ealdama said this new scheme would also result in better quality fresh fruit products and lessen the risk of spoilage.

"This undertaking is expected to address the perennial problem of transporting local products of fruit growers especially during peak harvest months," Nelly Dillera, DTI information chief told the INQUIRER. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

100 MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 8.5% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P 50,000 - 99,999.00	8.25%
P 100,000 - 499,999.00	8.25%
P 500,000 - 999,999.00	8.25%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999.00	8.25%
P 5,000,000 - UP	8.50%

*RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2233 / 2465
Member: PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Text Bkcom<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address>
send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users

IBM

GROWING FAST?
I.T. IN A MESS?

Get up to US$50,000 worth of free I.T. solutions that fit your business, so you can take back control. Whatever the size of your business, IBM has products and services that can help you streamline your I.T. infrastructure and lower costs by:

- Reducing complexity
- Simplifying server management
- Improving productivity and collaboration
- Ensuring security and resiliency

For a chance to win up to US$50,000 worth of I.T. solutions for your company, plus a brand new ThinkPad® for yourself as well, simply tell us your greatest I.T. challenge. Don't miss out - contest ends 14 July 2006.

For more details on how you can win an I.T. bundle worth up to US$50,000, call **1800 1888 1426** or visit **ibm.com/ph/makeover**

The IBM Makeover Challenge is brought to you in association with Intel®.

Terms and conditions apply. Please refer to **ibm.com/ph/makeover** for the full set of terms and conditions
IBM and the IBM logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States and other countries. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel SpeedStep, Intel Viiv, Intel Xeon, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, the Centrino logo, the Intel logo and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. ThinkPad is a registered trademark of Lenovo. Other company product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. © 2006 IBM Corporation

The Resort Experience.

Meet in a five-star hotel • Play golf • Unwind in a spa • Work out • Dine on East-West cuisine
• Shop and play • Experience it all in a resort-in-the-city that is your home •

Sarasota

The newest phase of

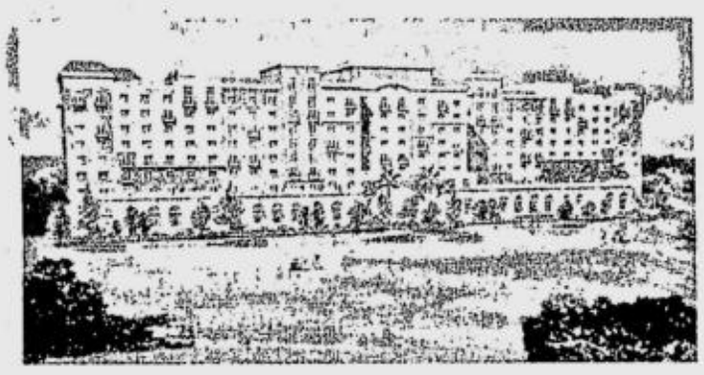
The Residential Resort at Newport City

The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences

Gozar Street, Newport City, Pasay City

Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to...

the ***Marriott Hotel...***



Where you can experience five-star luxury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centers and luxurious leisure amenities.

the ***Villamor Golf Course...***

A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

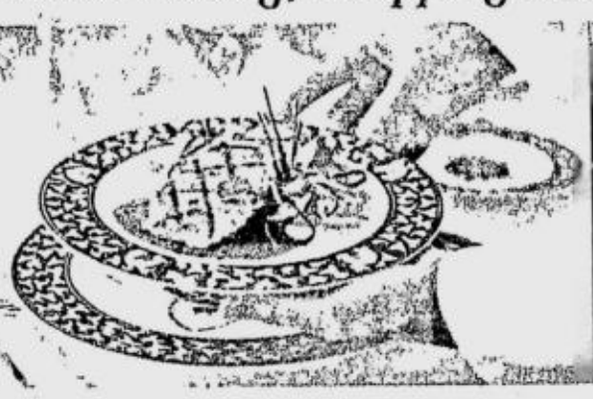
a luxurious indoor ***Spa...***

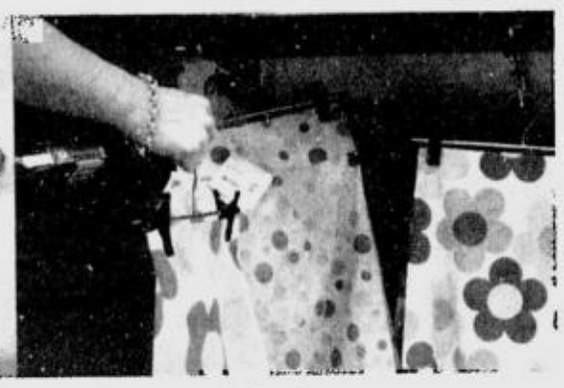
Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

a modern ***Fitness Center...***

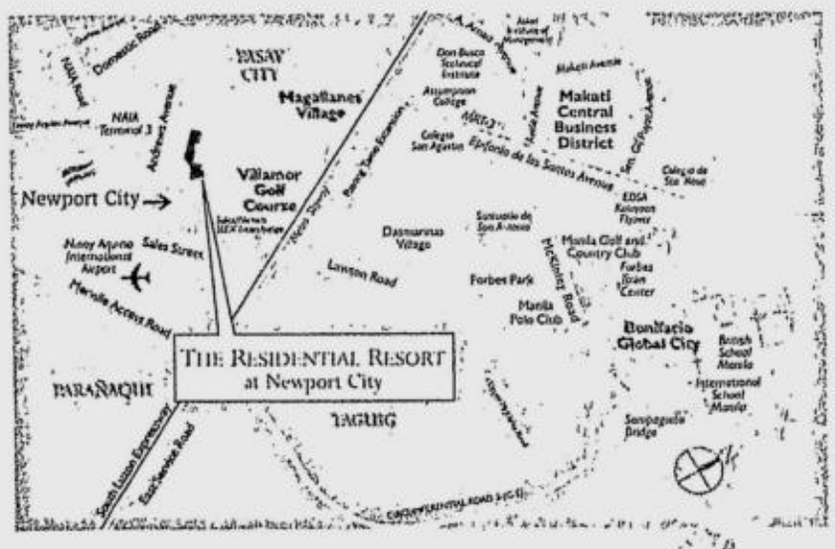
The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and landscaped play areas.

and a themed ***Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.***





Explore a streetscape of international restaurants, stylish boutiques and alfresco cafés with live performances—all within walking distance from home.



At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Join us on June 11, Sunday, 9 AM to 5 PM, at the Newport City Grand Showroom.

Own this 2-bedroom unit for as low as ₱23,000 a month.

Exclusive Marketing Arm:

Megaworld Newport Property Holdings, Inc.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Announcement Purposes Only

LIFESTYLE

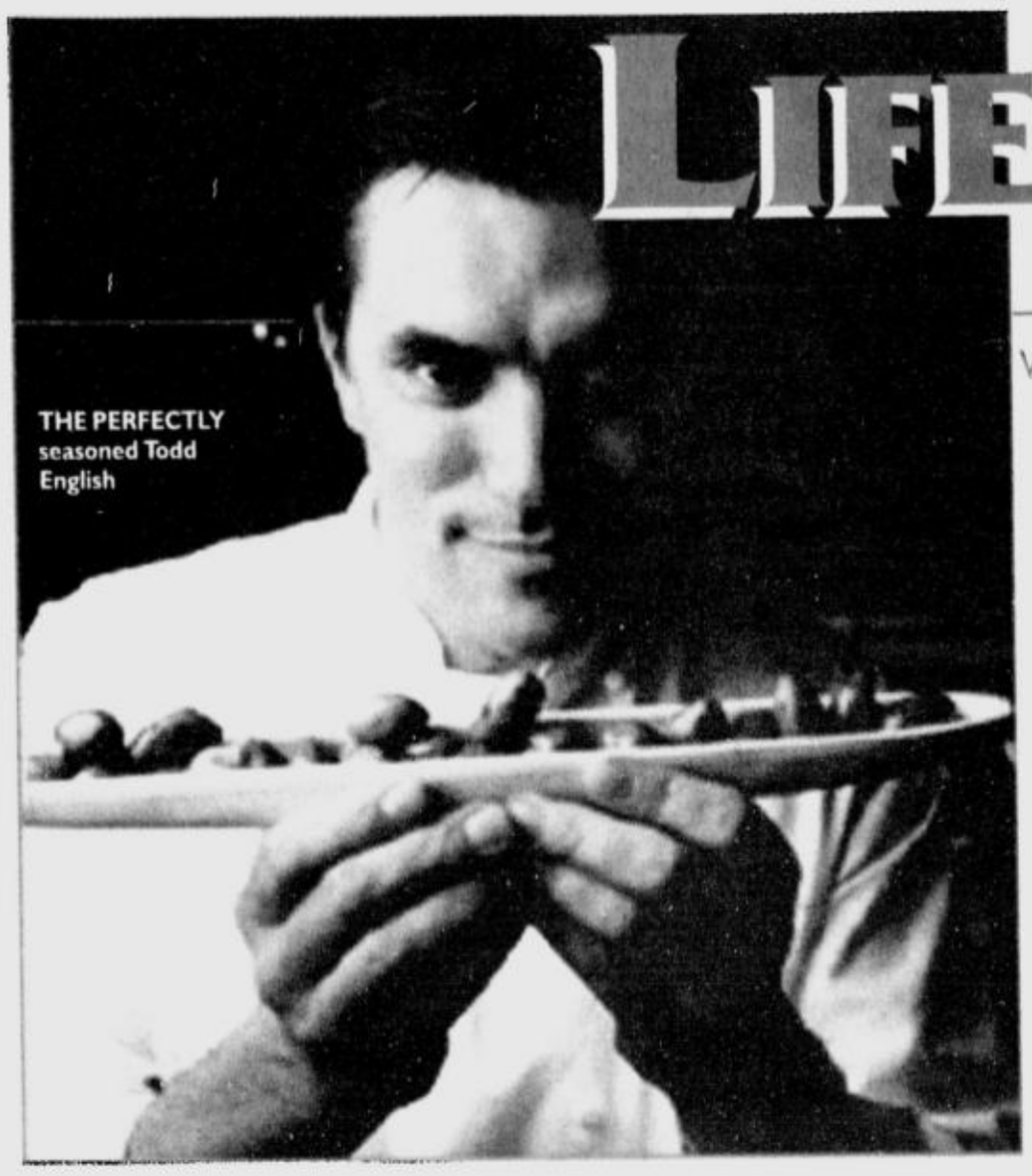
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

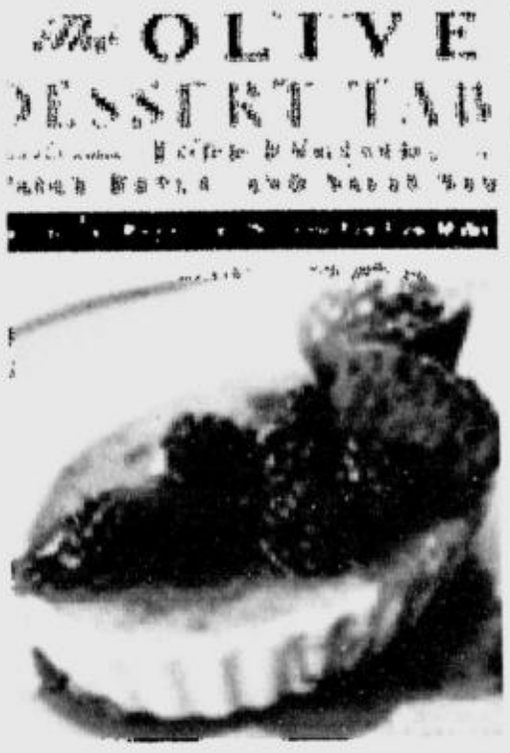
Father knows best

For an upcoming story in the Sunday Lifestyle section, tell us in 150 words or less what's the best thing you've learned from your father. Deadline is June 14.
E-mail to dad2reader@inquirer.com.ph. Or you can mail to PDI-Lifestyle Section, P.O. Box 2353, Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, attn: Dad to Reader.
Include your full name, address and phone numbers (land line and/or cell).

WEDNESDAY 2BU THURSDAY FOOD FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



THE PERFECTLY seasoned Todd English



AS AN AUTHOR, his cookbooks are critically acclaimed.

As delectable as his dishes

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

IN THE PAST MONTH OR so, Kitchen Rescue has been graced by culinary demigods. Michelin chefs Kevin Thornton, Philippe Legendre. Today, we have international celebrity and USA Iron Chef Todd English.

English's achievements are many. He is one of the most respected, adored and adorned chefs we have today, having established restaurants like the multi-awarded Olives. A consistent favorite of the Zagat guide, Olives has branches all over America. More recently, it found a home in Tokyo.

The other restaurants of chef English include Figs (three in Boston and one in New York); Tuscany (Connecticut); Bonfire & Kingfish Hall (Boston); Fish Club (Seattle); Bluezoo (Orlando); Restaurant Todd English (aboard the Cunard Line's Queen Mary 2); and English is Italian, his unique take on Italian country farmhouse dining.

As an author, his cookbooks are critically acclaimed. Television spared him not. His newest reality show, "Cooking Under Fire," will air soon on PBS. The Todd English line of cookware was also presented recently on the home-shopping network.

He was James Beard Foundation's National Rising Star Chef of 1991 and Best Chef in the Northeast in 1994, Bon Appetit's Restaurateur of the Year and one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People for 2001.

Despite the numerous feathers in his cap, he is happiest working for charity.

"My only wish is to give back to the very life that has given me much," he says.

To cast English solely as a celebrity is to miss the very essence of the man. Contrary to his Iron Chef title, the man is benevolent, rightfully celebrated for the excellence of his craft and more so for the beauty of the person within.

The man seems to have found his peace. And, like his flawless dishes, the chef as a person is seasoned to perfection!

Over a cup of coffee, Todd speaks of food, life, and love. Here is an excerpt from our conversation.

What brings you to us?

A possible venture with Steve Polastri and Don Felbaum. I opened recently a restaurant in Tokyo and I am looking toward expanding in Asia at whatever level. Perhaps, a restaurant, a hotel, a resort, merchandise development—more on the boutique level, though. Perhaps something small-scaled and specialized.

Baseball was your first love...

Yes. But I ended up cooking. I began my cooking career at 15. (At 20, he attended the Culinary Institute of America and graduated in 1982 with honors.)

Define yourself and your cuisine.

Hearty! Lusty! Rustic yet refined!

For those who dream of a kitchen career...

If you enter the business thinking that it's all just glamour, then it is not going to happen. It's 90 percent hard work and 10 percent luck, and, sometimes, it's even better to be lucky than good! What you put in is what you get out. There is no substitute for long hours. Nevertheless, I love my job. No other art form uses all five senses! But it all boils down to hard work.

Sanest advice to a restaurateur...

Give yourself time; it is important. Burning out is a reality. Stay healthy and always learn to take a step back. Take time to figure out the good that you have done, instead of agonizing over what you did wrong.

After all you've achieved, are there any more dreams left?

I'm just beginning!

On being a chef...

In the past 20 or so years there have been drastic changes in the culinary scene. The cooking schools then are not even the same as the cooking schools now. People have changed, too; they've become more discriminating. So we must know and be more critical of what we do, what our ingredients are, their benefits, where they're from, how they're fed, where they're grown.

On being an Iron Chef...

I find myself gasping for breath until I see the secret ingredient. It gives me butterflies in the stomach. It's a sport. It's competition.

AS DELECTABLE/ C4

BE PART of the world Meeting of Families
Join the Marian Pilgrimage Tour
with **Bishop Angel Hobayan D.D.**
and Experience
The Solemn Eucharistic Mass with our
Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI
on July 6 to 21, 2006
EVERYONE IS INVITED
FOR VISA PURPOSES AND RESERVATION PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY
Salve - 09174110154 / 8262819
Alice - 829-9600 / 829-2900 / 0927-5542951
Eder - 829-4527 / 0926-3400504

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet and greet your favorite Starstruck star.
Mark Herras
Want to discover
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

SLIMMERS WORLD
LOSE UP TO 10 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES!!!
ARTURO GUERRERO lost 35 lbs on his programme.
JONABEL GAVIETA lost 34.5 lbs on her programme.
*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE
536-3333
CELLPHONE
091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

BODY METRICS
THE ULTIMATE CORE FAT BURNING PROGRAMME FOR MEN & WOMEN!
FREE DANCE AEROBICS*
5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS*
ONLY P45* PER DAY
NO JOINING FEES! CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
Per DTI-NCR PErmit #2787. Series of 2006.

GREAT FACE & SKIN, BODY WHITENING
Free from all Body hair & Blemishes!
SLIMMERS WORLD Face, Skin & Cosmetic CENTERS
GREAT SAVINGS FOR JUNE!!!
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE
ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS*. FIRST 25 SLOTS.
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%. Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787. Series of 2006.
DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL For beautiful, smooth white skin.
HOT MASQUE For firming and inch loss.
BODY FORMER Lose 1,000 calories while you relax
• MESOTHERAPY • AQUAMID • NUTRACELL-FACE • PURAGEN • WART REMOVAL
• LASER ACNE TREATMENT • PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL • FACIAL • SKIN WHITENING

CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Roda/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Juna/Anne 231-3254
GREENHILLS Anna 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Ruby 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan/Val 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Dino/Jiggs 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Emily 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314

DRIED tomato tartare with "brandade" of cod and king prawns simmered in truffle oil, accompanied by mustard ice cream

CITRUS fruit roasted lobster with boiling Kaffir lime butter and thyme honey-flavored carrots

OVEN-ROASTED rack of lamb roasted with spices and olive oil, and spice roasted rack of lamb with cumin-flavored stuffed tomato and parmesan risotto

A taste of French spring

By Alex Y. Vergara

OWNER of La Chartreuse du Val Saint-Esprit, Monsieur Jean Constant

GUEST chef Nicolas Bonvarlit

GUEST chef Franck Gilabert

THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL HERALDS French Spring in Manila this year with a French food festival that is ongoing at Tivoli until June 11.

"Journées Gastronomiques III" features mostly oven-roasted and braised seafood and meat dishes from the small town of Gosnay north of Paris.

To make the dishes as authentic as possible, Mandarin Oriental and its partners, which include the Embassy of France and Air France, flew in hotelier and restaurateur Jean Constant and his two chefs, Frank Gilabert and Nicolas Bonvarlit.

Constant owns and manages La Chartreuse du Val Saint-Esprit, a 14th-century castle he converted into a boutique hotel some 200 km northeast of Paris. One of the hotel's food and beverage outlets is Le Robert II, a gourmet restaurant run by Gilabert and Bonvarlit.

Constant and company are recreating dishes from the restaurant's menu, such as pan-fried goose liver or foie gras, oven-roasted sea bass and pigeon.

The pigeon is oven-roasted "to the blood." Constant explains, "We remove the pigeon from the oven as soon as blood comes out of its flesh. That's when we know it's cooked."

The dish, he adds, is a specialty of southern France and is actually far less gruesome than it sounds. The bird's legs are cooked separately in a mixture of olive oil and thyme.

Apart from chicory and other hard-to-find French spices, the trio also brought with them several kilos of *andouille*, French sausage made from pigs' guts. Like Filipinos, the French believe no part of the pig should go to waste. They have found ways to prepare and cook animal parts, down to the innards.

Mandarin imported the bulk of the ingredients, including foie gras (not the canned variety, mind you), lamb chops, sea bass and cod.

Lobsters, crabs, king prawns and a good number of vegetables (including vanilla!) being used as side dishes or garnishing, are sourced locally.

Aside from the oven-roasted rack of lamb and pigeon dishes, the Tivoli also serves oven-roasted veal and sweetbreads with linden leaves, butter and vegetable chutney. Fish and shellfish items include stewed bass, citrus fruit-roasted lobster and herb-roasted turbot.

The special menu consists of 15 dishes—from appetizer, soup, main course, to dessert. At a recent press luncheon to launch the gastronomic fair, the Frenchmen presented two items from each course for the dining pleasure of the guests.

Having had one too many meat dishes, we skipped the lamb chops in favor of the lobster served with boiling Kaffir lime butter and thyme honey-flavored carrots.

The oven-roasted rack of lamb (cooked medium rare as the French like it) was served with cumin-flavored stuffed tomato and parmesan risotto.

"You can easily find most of the ingredients we use anywhere in France," says Constant. "What makes our dishes a bit different is the way we cook them. Most are either roasted or cooked slowly using low fire."

People with a sweet tooth can choose to indulge in any or all of three desserts on the menu. We went for molten chocolate cake served with cocoa sorbet, dates and honey crisp over the traditional *mille feuille* with light Tahitian cream and chicory ice cream. The light cream was made from eggs, milk and vanilla.

For a lighter, but not necessarily less-caloric dessert, you can try the pineapple ravioli with raspberries dipped in Genever sauce and aniseed candy.

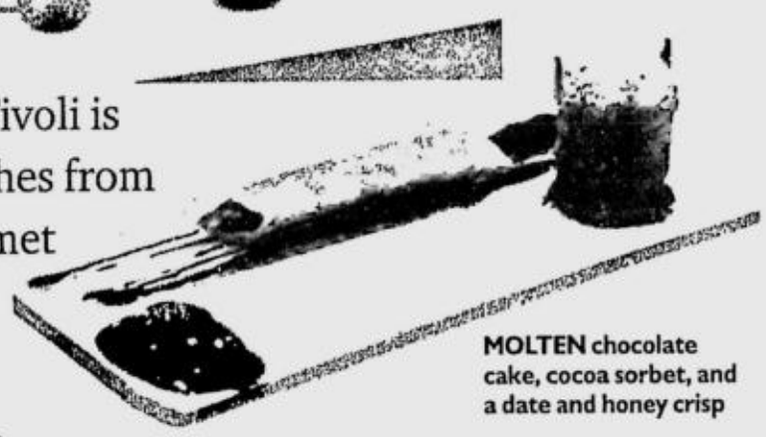
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph.

BEETROOT minestrone with *andouille* from Cambrai on chicory cream foam

TRADITIONAL *mille feuille* with light Tahitian cream and chicory ice cream

WARM escalope of foie gras on soy melon coulis with petit chervil salad and vanilla salt

Mandarin's Tivoli is featuring dishes from French gourmet restaurant Le Robert II until June 11



MOLTEN chocolate cake, cocoa sorbet, and a date and honey crisp

COMBINE soy sauce, ginger, garlic, salt and pepper.

MIX well and marinate chicken for 30 minutes.

IN A BOWL, blend butter and lemon rind.

PUT about 2 tsp of butter under the skin of each chicken piece.

PLACE chicken on a sheet of Glad Bake Paper. Top with asparagus and bell peppers.

WRAP and enclose chicken in baking paper.

All wrapped up and ready to bake

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

TIRED of having simply fried or broiled chicken at home? Then try this flavorful, healthy "oven-steamed" chicken cooked in its own juices.

STEP BY STEP

Chicken en Papillote is marinated chicken wrapped in baking paper and baked briefly. Cooked in its own juice, the chicken comes out moist.

Papillote (pronounced pah-pee-yoht) is French for the paper frill that is used to decorate the tips of rib bones, such as those on crown roasts. *En papillote* refers to food baked within a wrapping of greased parchment paper. As the food bakes and lets off steam, the parchment puffs up into a dome shape.

Cooking Chicken en Papillote (chicken in a parcel) is fun to prepare because each bag expands to something like a fat pillow during the cooking. The cooking technique also means there is less cleaning up to do afterwards. Now what can be more enjoyable than that?

"It's no-mess cooking," says chef Sonny Ong of San Miguel PureFoods Culinary Center. "Simply wrap the chicken and vegetables in baking sheet, then bake and serve. This is also a healthy alternative for cooking chicken because you eliminate the need for cooking oil in the process."

The method can also be used for fish, adds Ong, but cooking time will have to be adjusted.

Baking paper should be cut into pieces large enough to enclose the chicken and vegetables completely.

The chicken should be carefully removed from oven and placed on a serving plate. The packets should be carefully opened and the paper carefuly peeled back once the serving plate has been placed on the table. This is because the aroma of the dish is part of the dining experience.

Ong suggests that when sealing the chicken in the baking paper, space should be left to allow air to circulate inside. Care should be taken when unsealing the packs after cooking, as the escaping steam will be very hot.

This recipe makes six servings. Serve with steamed rice.

CHICKEN en Papillote

Ingredients

6 pc Magnolia Chicken Breast halves, skin on
3 tbsp light soy sauce
2 tbsp grated ginger
3 tbsp minced garlic
½ tsp ground black pepper
½ tsp salt
1 c Magnolia Gold Butter, softened
3 tbsp grated lemon rind
100 g fresh asparagus, sliced
1 c sliced red bell peppers
Glad Bake Paper

BAKE in a pre-heated oven at 200°F for 20 minutes.

For suggestions, e-mail vbaga@inquirer.com.ph.

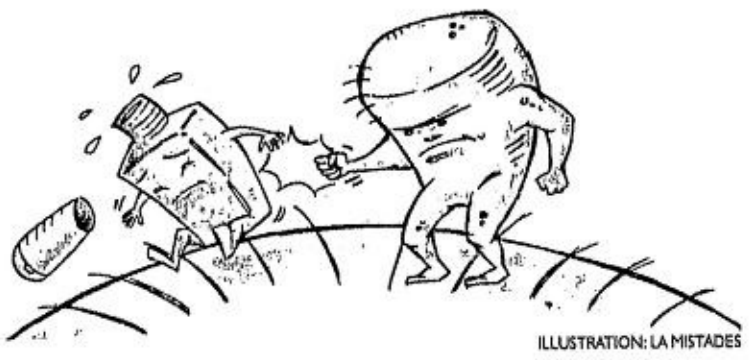


ILLUSTRATION: LA MISTADES

Hand sanitizers are not created equal

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

ALCOHOL-BASED INSTANT hand sanitizers need to have a minimum of 60-percent alcohol concentration to kill most harmful bacteria and viruses.

This, according to the New York Times, is the considered opinion of health officials as published in a recent issue of the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Elaine Larson, professor of pharmaceutical and therapeutic research at Columbia's nursing school, said: "Consumers need to look carefully at the label before they buy any of these products."

Larson was quoted by the Times as saying consumers should check the bottle for active ingredients. "It might say ethyl alcohol, ethanol, isopropanol or some other variation, and those are all fine. But make sure that whichever of those alcohols is listed, its concentration is between 60 and 95 percent. Less than that isn't enough."

In the Times article by Deborah Franklin, it was reported that, since 2002, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recommended that health-care workers routinely use high-quality alcohol-based gels instead of soap and water on their hands when moving from patient to patient, "as long the worker's hands aren't visibly soiled."

According to the Times report, alcohol doesn't cut through grime well, so dirt, blood, feces or other body fluids or soil must be wiped or washed away first, if the alcohol in the sanitizer is to be effective.

Allison Aiello, an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan, sees more potential uses of hand sanitizers in the office.

"Studies show that the computer keyboard, the phone receiver and the desk are worse than the bathroom in terms of microorganisms," she said.

But she also stressed that washing with plain old soap and water should be the first choice.

A good cleaning with a hand sanitizer should also involve vigorous rubbing of all sides of the hands with enough gel or foam to get them wet. The hands should be rubbed together until they are dry. If the hands are dry within 10 or 15 seconds, according to guidelines for health care workers issued by the Centers for Disease Control, not enough gel is used.

New scam

Meanwhile, mobile-phone users are being warned against a new scam. Several Globe subscribers have received a text message saying:

"Hello! Ds s Joy, agent ng Smart po. Ppdlhan po namin kayo ng free Smart prepaid simcard via courier. Free delivery po ito. Txt lang po ur name/address/sim brand to...para mpadla namin sim nyo. Libre ito! Kung may tanong kayo, text CALL to same number at twgan po nmin kayo. Thank u."

The number of the sender of the text message is different from the number given.

Another version of this message is "Ds is Nathan, agent of Smart. Bigyan po namn kyo ng Prepaid SIM w/ 3Days Unlmtd Txt Free pag nagload ka P30. Txt po name/adres/sim brand to...at ippdala nmin sim nyo. Kung may tanong po kyo, magtext lang po ng CALL at kami npo tawag sa inyo. Salamat po."

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)

Budget-friendly theme parties

SHOPWISE HYPERMARKET offers help to make hosting get-togethers at home easier and less stressful.

With the help of chef and food stylist Pixie Sevilla-Santos, the hypermarket shares these ideas on how to have theme parties for six that are easy on the budget.

Resort getaway

For a tropical and casual feel, use natural shades and materials, such as bamboo, wood, coco fiber, sand and seashells for table setting.

Menu:

Softened Mozzarella in warm tomato puree (served with French bread/*boule*)

Tossed lettuce with grilled vegetables and *kesong puti* pieces with lemon vinaigrette Grilled Pesto Marinated Tenderloin

Pasta/Rice (Garlic butter prawns linguine, with olive oil, garlic, peppers, *queso de bola* and shrimp)

Banana split cream pie

Sparkling calamansi juice

Cost: P3,000-P3,500

American

Make the table playful and fun for young guests using vibrant and bold colors. Plastic picnic ware will create an outdoor feel. Add garden elements like birdhouses or turn vegetables into topiaries.

Menu:

Chips and Dips (baked tortilla wedges or chips), with salsa/spinach and cheese dip

Coleslaw

Grilled Hamburger/Hotdog bar

Condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, chili in can, bacon bits), cheese slices, blue cheese, tomatoes, lettuce

Three-cheese macaroni and cheese

Caramelized lemon slices

Spirited Mango Cooler

Cost: P2,000-P2,500

Zen

Use oriental elements like sandalwood fans, cocktail umbrellas and bamboo mats. Complement with red and black dinnerware, with a black lamp and candleholder surrounded by red flowers and green and white vegetables as centerpiece.

Menu:

California Maki Stacks

Spicy Tuna Salad, with alfalfa sprouts and crunchy Japanese bread crumbs on top

Angus Steak Teppanyaki with sautéed bean sprouts and bell pepper strips

Wild Mushroom Risotto

Frozen Tiramisu

Green tea/red wine

Cost: P2,000-P2,500

Exotic

Use décor in various jeweled colors and mosaic finishes to create an eastern feel. Mix and match colors of plates and glassware and use flowers and vegetables with different colors for centerpiece. Scatter long-stemmed strawberries around the table.

Menu:

Curried Chicken Samosas (in *lumpia* wrapper)

Couscous salad with cucumber, tomatoes, olives and olive oil (brown rice may used in place of couscous)

Grilled Lamb with Mint Flavored Yogurt

Moussaka

Warm Chocolate Fudge Brownies a la Mode Topped with Caramel Bananas

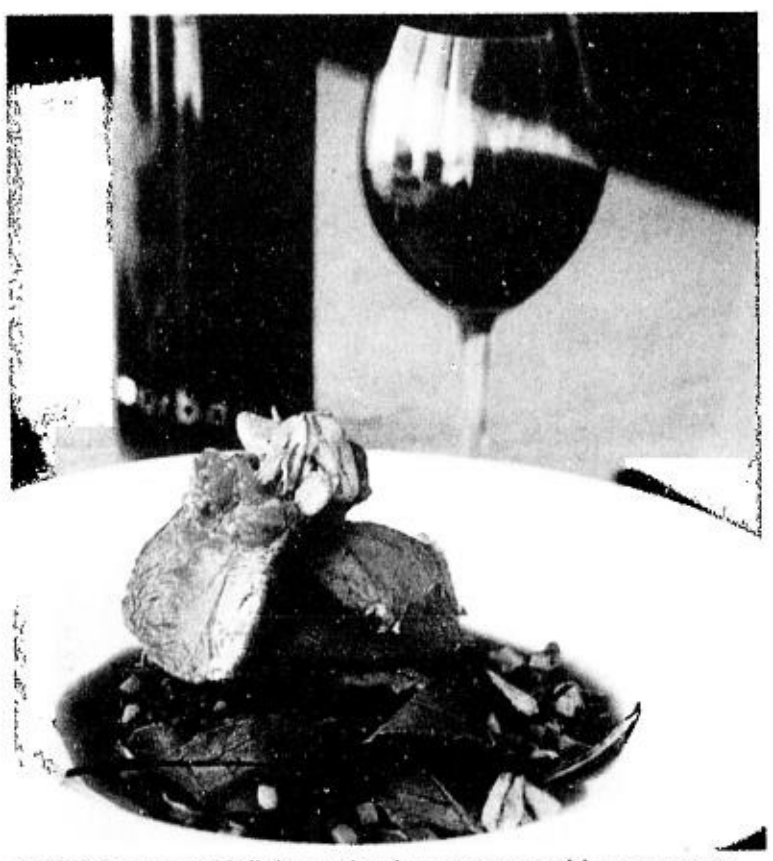
Arabic coffee with cardamom pods/red wine

Cost: P 2,000-P2,500

All food ingredients and party décor are available at Shopwise Hypermarket branches. For the chef's complete recipes, visit www.shopwise.com.ph.

Sevilla-Santos, a graduate of the California Culinary Arts Academy in San Francisco, California, is owner of Forget Me Not Specialty Cakes and pastry chef instructor at the OB Montessori College.

ZEN party



CHEFS from over 60 dining outlets have come up with new ways to serve lamb for this year's Oooh-la-Lamb festival that ends June 18.

It's Oooh-La-Lamb season again

SEVERAL RESTAURANTS and hotels are participating in the ongoing Oooh-La-Lamb festival that ends June 18.

Now on its fourth year, the event is organized by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), the world's largest exporter of red meat. It aims to promote Australian lamb by having some 60 of the country's top chefs prepare different dishes with the meat as main ingredient.

Participating outlets include dining establishments in Tagaytay and Cebu.

In Metro Manila, participants are Ang Hang, Annabel Lee, Bianca's Café Vinotek, Blue Bacon and Green Eggs, Bollywood, Café Havana, Café Mediterranean, Carpaccio Ristorante Italiano, Cirkulo, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Florabel, Gaudi, Gourdo's, Hyatt Regency, Ilustrado, La Tienda, Le Soufflé, Mandarin Hotel, Mario's, Mario's Kitchen, Moomba, Nuvo, Old Swiss Inn, Patio Guernica, People's Palace, Pepato, Queens Crystal Garden, Sala, Santi's Deli & Café, The French Corner, The Palms Country Club, Trio and Zucchini.

In Tagaytay: Antonio's, Fire Lake Grill, Manos and Tagaytay Highlands.

In Cebu: Casa Español, David's, Don Merto's, Hilton Hotel Cebu Resort & Spa, Marriott's Hotel, Olio, Tinderbox, Waterfront Lahug and La Tegola.

Call Meat and Livestock Australia at 8097309, or e-mail agnes@itchon.com

DO YOU HAVE CASH TO GO?

You're overworked at the office, with countless hours logged in and a pile of pending work heaped on your inbox tray. You know you're at your wits' end, and the only solution is a spur-of-the-moment getaway to your favorite beach or mountain resort, away from your office cubicle and out into the great outdoors.

Do you have cash to go?

The heat is oppressive, with the temperature rising. Can tempers be any far behind? So you decide to buy the flat screen television you've been eyeing to preoccupy yourself, or buy a new air conditioner to cool your room.

Do you have cash to go?

The kids are on summer vacation, and it's downtime not only for them but for you as well. No books to buy, no sudden expenses to worry about, no daily baon to allot money for. But the year's biggest expense is just around the corner: enrollment.

Do you have cash to go?

With the temperature well above the 30's, it is doubtless that summertime is here. For others, it means a chance to go on vacation. For some, it means beating the heat with a new air conditioner. For parents, it means gearing up for their children's impending enrollment.

Unfortunately, these entail instant funds at your disposal. And in these trying times, quick cash is hard to come by. It's refreshing to know that there's the CASH2GO BEAT Installment Plan that comes with your Metrobank Credit Card where you can enjoy fast funds, for any need or occasion, and pay conveniently at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly terms.

For more information, call 8-700-700 to know how you can get CASH2GO or visit any Metrobank branch now.

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of METROBANK and ANZ

IT'S TIME FOR HER TO GO TO SCHOOL.

With Metrobank's CASH2GO, your credit card becomes instant cash. Just fill out a form at any Metrobank branch and you can enjoy instant funds with a low interest rate per month!

- Instant funds with the CASH2GO BEAT Installment Plan!
- Easy and affordable installments for painless payments at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 months
- Immediate cash for travel, appliances, and even tuition!
- For inquiries, call our 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 8-700-700

CASH2GO
The BEAT Installment Plan

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of METROBANK and ANZ

You're in good hands with METROBANK

Swift

"Naturally brown, naturally delicious! Try the new Swift SAM, the hotdog I've fallen in love with."

Sam Milby

Bagong sarap. **Bagong kaibigan.**

Special cakes and favorite breads

CLASSES

DOROTHY'S COOKING SCHOOL WILL BE holding the following classes for June: special cakes (Maple Walnut, Almond Butter, Mocha Roll with Almond Cream Filling, Ube Pandan and Apple Strudel), June 14; bread basket favorites (French Bread, Pandesal, Sticky Buns, Rustic Potato Bread and Monay), June 21; popular Thai recipes (Chicken Coconut Soup with Mushrooms and Lemon Grass, Steamed Pork and Vegetable Curry, Whole Fish in Red Curry Sauce, Fried Chicken in Pandan and Sticky Rice with Mangoes), June 28; and Soups and Stews for the Rainy Season, July 1.
Call 7217735 and 4167968.

Spanish tapas

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods Culinary Center will hold a special cooking class, Savor Spanish Tapas featuring Juan Carlos de Terry, 1:30-4:30 p.m., June 16, at the San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center, Legaspi cor. Eagle Streets., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.
Registration fee is P800. My Great Food Club members get a 20-percent discount. Log on to www.mygreatfoodclub.com or call 6719876 loc. 402, 404, 405 and 2771.

Resto management

PROACTIVE Center will conduct Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop and Managing a Catering Business Workshop this month.
Registration is ongoing on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 6673369 or 0915-4315375.
Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, workshop materials, and certificate of completion.

Brewing basics

MAYA Kitchen is offering Coffee Basic 101, 2-6 p.m., June 17 and 24.
Other classes are Basic Cake Decorating, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., June 17 and 24; Basic Culinary, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., June 20-23; Rice Toppings with Meat Preservation, 9-1 p.m., June 24; and Free Baking Demo, 3-5 p.m., June 30.
Visit the Maya Kitchen, Tuesday-Saturday, 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City or call 8921185/5011 loc. 108. Or e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Authentic Spanish

REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:
June 9—Authentic Spanish (all new): Lengua in Fresh Mushroom Sauce, Cocido Madrileño de Lujo, Rabo de Toro a la Jerezana (ox tail stew), Bacalao, Tocino del Cielo
June 10—Ultimate Adobo Class: Duck Confit Adobo with Gooseberry Jam, Black Seafood Adobo, Lamb Adobo with Shallot Balsamic Jam; Free Range Chicken Adobo with Banana Achar; dessert
June 12—Party! A Spring Roll Buffet '06 (all new): Steak, Mango Prawn, Authentic Vietnamese, Crisp Fish, Salmon, Duck, Chicken; dipping sauces; side dishes
June 14—To-die-for Marsala Recipes (all new): Mixed Green with Marsala Oranges, Marsala Steak, Chicken with Marsala Cream, Fish Marsala, Zabaione; side dishes
Call 9289296/9273008/6335162.

As delectable as his dishes

From page C1

On haute cuisine...

It comes from culture. It's about what Mom is cooking and taking it to new levels. It's about common ingredients used in uncommon ways.

On what makes a restaurant successful...

Restaurants must have a purpose, a mission statement. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as magic dust. It's hit or miss. It's about telling a story and not trying to please everybody.

On what he loves most about what he does...

I go to work excited. Everyday is different. As the season changes so do the ingredients. When I see beautiful heirloom tomatoes, I think, what should I do with them? It doesn't get old!

On being one of People Magazine's 50 most beautiful people...

Oh! What is beautiful, what is sexy, goes deeper than the skin. And to cook, what we do, to make people happy—*that* is sexy!

E-mail the author: raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

PowerShot Power Offer

Canon
Delighting You Always

Get more shots with a FREE 256MB Memory Card when you buy a PowerShot A430.
• 4 Megapixels
4x Optical Zoom
• 4.57 cm (1.8") LCD screen

PowerShot
A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

MARIA SHARAPOVA
Wimbledon Champion

Promo runs from May 8 to June 30, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0820, Series of 2006.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

PictBridge DiG!C II

RICH and flavorful 'pinikpikan' /D4

Sugar-free treats in 30 minutes

CULINARY EXPERTS Sylvia, Morella and Ernest Reynoso-Gala have collaborated with Equal, the low-calorie sweetener, to develop tasteful and healthy recipes that can be done in only 30 minutes. Try either the Low-Calorie Chicken Barbecue or Low-Calorie Mango Cheesecake, or have both.

COOKING guru Sylvia Reynoso-Gala (center), flanked by Renee Bernardo, Equal brand manager-East Asia, and Marivi M. Zamora, Equal business manager-East Asia

Low-calorie Chicken Barbecue

Two whole chicken breasts, deboned and cut into 1 ½ inch chicken cubes

(Weight: 500g or ½ kg chicken cubes)

For the marinade:

¼ c Equal Spoonful*

1 c tomato sauce

1 big head crushed garlic with skin on

2 tbsp soy sauce

1 tsp ground peppercorn

*May substitute 6 pcs of Equal Sachet 1g

For brushing (during grilling):

1 tbsp soy sauce for brushing barbecue after cooking

¼ c canola or corn oil

Mix all ingredients for the marinade. Marinate from 1-8 hours in the refrigerator using all marinade ingredients.

Skewer chicken cubes in 9-12 sticks (bamboo or metal skewers).

Save marinade for brushing after cooking, adding the remaining 1 tbsp soy sauce.

Grill over charcoal or flat grill pan, brushing the pan and chicken with oil.

When chicken is cooked and while still on charcoal or grill, brush with remaining marinade.

Leave on the grill pan for 1 minute more.

Remove from fire.

Serves 3-6 persons.

Low-calorie No-bake Mango Cheesecake

For the crust:

¼ c Equal Spoonful*

1 ½ c finely crushed unsalted soda crackers

1/3 c melted and cooled butter or margarine

*May substitute 6 pcs of Equal Sachet 1g

For the filling:

1 tbsp unflavored gelatin

¼ c water

1 pack 225g cream cheese

1 c cold all-purpose cream

½ c Equal Spoonful*

1 tsp orange extract

1 c diced fresh mango

*May substitute 12 pcs of Equal Sachet 1g

For the topping:

1 c cold all-purpose cream

1 tbsp unflavored gelatin dispersed in ¼ c water

¼ c Equal Spoonful*

*May substitute 6 pcs. of Equal Sachet 1g

Line a 9-inch spring form pan with foil (removable bottom pan).

To make the crust:

a. Mix ingredients in a bowl.

b. Pour on a pan.

c. Put plastic cling wrap on top. Press with the back of a spoon or a small pizza-rolling pan.

d. Remove plastic cling wrap when finished.

e. Set aside.

To make filling:

a. Dissolve unflavored gelatin over low fire or microwave in 40 seconds on high.

b. Put the cream cheese, all-purpose cream, orange extract, gelatin in a bowl, and beat at high speed until creamy.

c. Beat well. Then add the Equal Spoonful.

d. Beat well. Carefully fold in mangoes

e. Pour filling on the crust. Refrigerate until firm.

To make topping:

a. Over low fire, disperse 1 tbsp unflavored gelatin in ¼ c water

b. Beat 1 c cold all-purpose cream and gelatin mixture in a bowl at high speed until thick.

c. Add ¼ cup Equal Spoonful

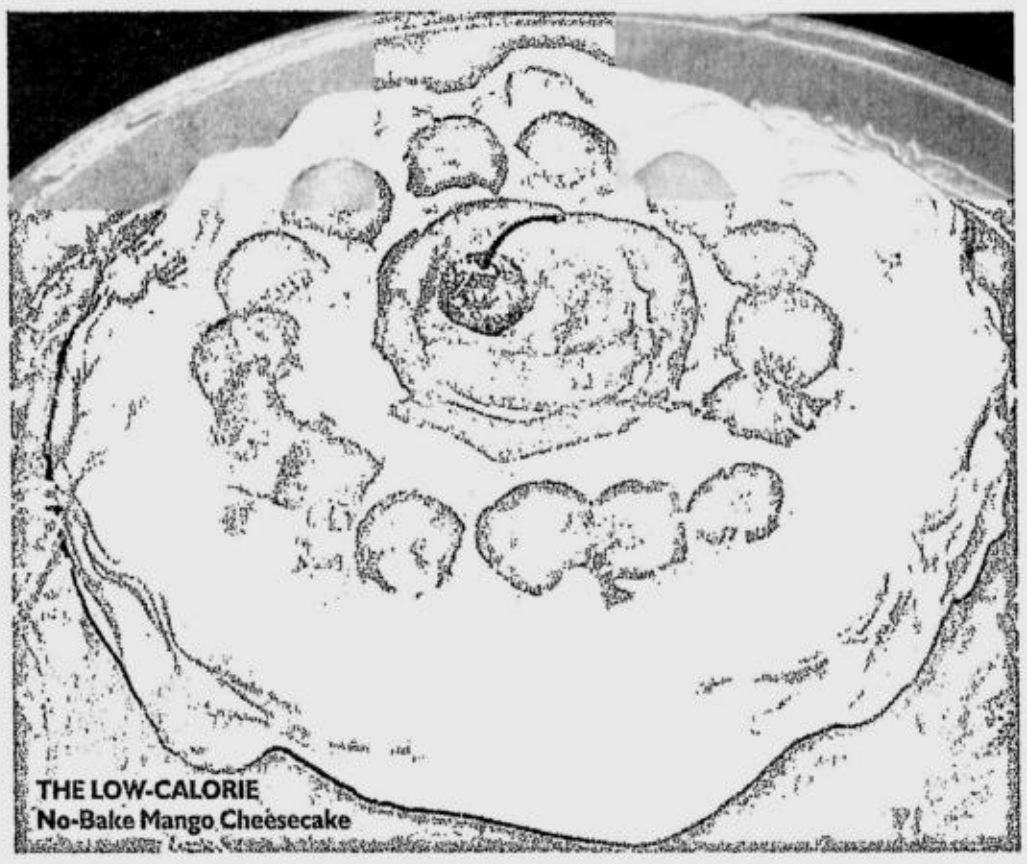
d. Pipe rosettes on top of cake.

Decorate with 1 ripe mango, scooped into small balls.

Sprinkle Equal Spoonful on top.

Serves 8-10 persons.

Visit www.equal.com or call 6714498 or 6714489 for more recipes.



THE LOW-CALORIE No-Bake Mango Cheesecake

LACOSTE

Sonto Mesh for women
www.lacoste.com

• Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Tel. No. 635-0744 • Glorietta 3, Tel. No. 867-4077 • Robinsons Place Manila, Tel. No. 522-7778
• The Power Plant Mall, Tel. No. 898-0933 • The Podium, Tel. No. 633-8226 • The Gateway Mall, Tel. No. 912-5726 • Robinsons Galleria, Tel. No. 638-8020
• SM City Davao, Tel. No. (082) 297-2510 • Ayala Center Cebu, Tel. No. (032) 232-5455 • SM Mall of Asia, Tel. No. 556-0479

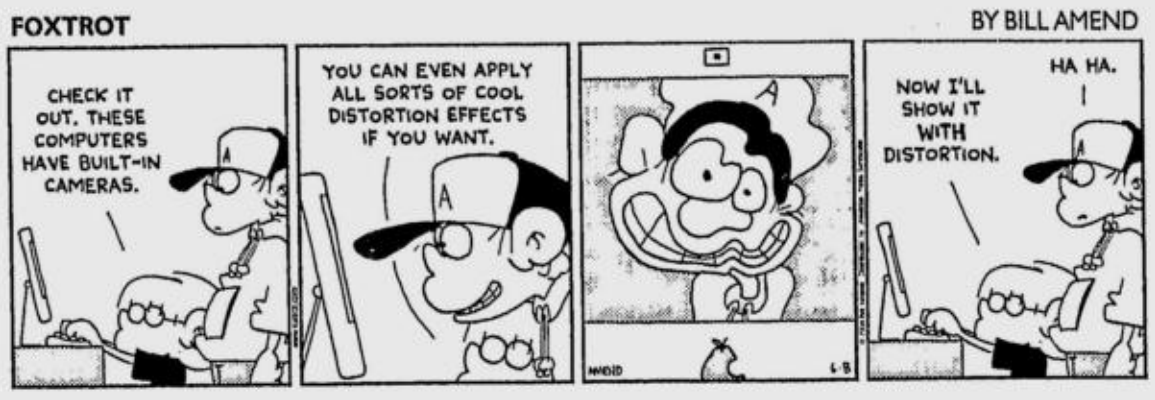
COMICRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

LOVEKNOTS

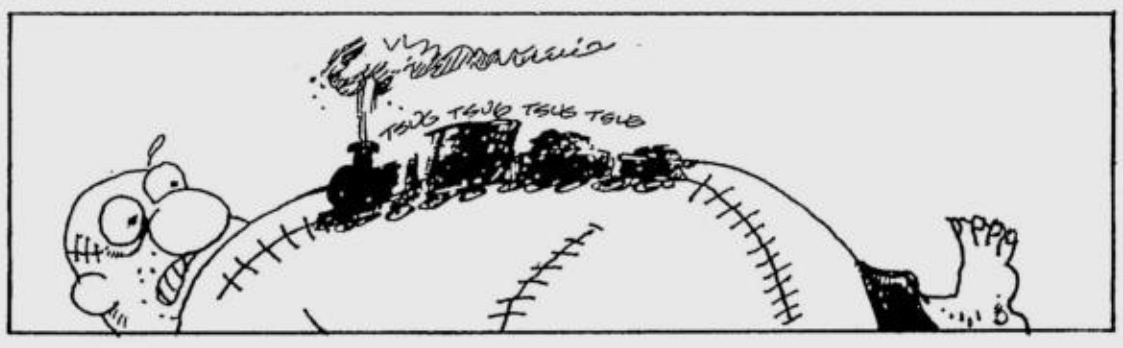
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



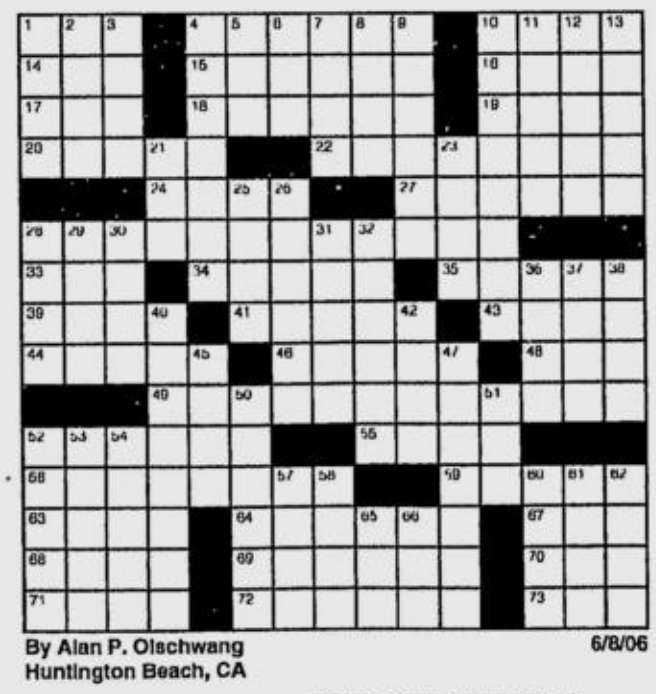
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Golfer Ernie
4 Scornful remarks
10 Provides the crew for
14 Old Olds' auto
15 Profess
16 Orchestra instrument
17 Actor Waterston
18 Start of Ed Howe quote
19 Ancient alphabet character
20 Pick up the tab
22 Splash of liquid
24 Storyline
27 Is
28 Part 2 of quote
33 Jurist Fortas
34 Rustic
35 Intuit
39 Pub purchase
41 Throat prob.
43 Battle souvenir
44 Church council
46 Eagle's nest
48 Dancer Miller
49 Part 3 of quote
52 Most of Mali
55 Blue nose
56 Egg-laying mammal
59 London flashlight
63 Lower voice
64 End of quote
67 Historical period
68 Forest denizen
69 Overhaul
70 Chance beginning?
71 Breaks off
72 Coined money
73 Part of IOU

DOWN
1 Formerly, formerly
2 Shakespearean king
3 Vague amount
4 Beans spiller
5 Fire residue
6 Exploit
7 Daily report
8 Sting operation
9 Surgical instrument
10 Tenons' mates
11 Touches against
12 Composition for nine
13 Prophets
21 Mimic
23 WWII powers
25 Numbered composition
26 Dental deposit
28 File markers
29 Toe the line
30 Sharp
31 Mariah of music
32 Tips off
36 Final Four org.
37 Without: Fr.
38 Osprey's cousin
40 Turning parts
42 Semistable meson
45 Small rowboat
47 Biological subdivision
50 Odd-toed ungulates
51 "The Sopranos" producer
52 Black card
53 Comic Woody
54 Despised
57 Lone Star State sch.
58 PC command
60 Bank seizure, briefly
61 Driver's team
62 Fast one of a fable
65 Female GI, once
66 Guy's friend?



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
6/8/06

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	R	I	S		A	L	I	T		P	E	C	S
N	E	E	D	Y		L	O	G	O		L	S	A	T
A	N	G	E	R		B	O	O	R		A	C	R	E
	T	I	E	U	P	I	N	R	E	D	T	A	P	E
M	A	S		P	A	N				R	E	P	E	L
A	C	T	S		S	O	N	A	T	A		F	T	E
P	O	E	T	S			A	P	R	I	L			
	P	R	O	C	R	A	S	T	I	N	A	T	E	
			A	R	O	M	A			S	T	O	N	E
A	S	S		A	D	U	L	T	S		E	R	G	O
C	L	A	S	P				E	O	S		T	I	N
T	A	B	L	E	T	H	E	M	O	T	I	O	N	
O	K	R	A		R	A	S	P		A	R	I	E	S
N	E	A	T		A	R	T	E		L	A	S	E	R
E	S	S	E		P	E	E	R		E	N	E	R	O

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

6/8/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are loyal, dutiful and protective of loved ones. However, personally you are highly individualistic. You have a mind of your own. Many of you have a scientific bent and are technically proficient at something. You like a harmonious environment, and strive to maintain one. Work hard to build and construct something this year that will benefit you in the future.
Birthdate of: Joan Rivers, interviewer; Barbara Bush, former first lady; Jerry Stiller, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Attend to all those red-tape details you've been putting off related to inheritances, insurance matters, debt, taxes and bills. (You'll be glad you did.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to focus on your most personal relationships. Talk to partners and close friends. Guard against "knee-jerk" reactions to what others say.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day to focus on home, small pets and personal hygiene. You might also want to shop for items related to these areas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're consumed by romantic thoughts and feelings today. You certainly feel protective toward loved ones. Involvement with children will be enjoyable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'll enjoy opportunities to be by yourself at home today. You need to buffer yourself from the world. It's good to take a rest in order to get your bearings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your thinking today could be unduly influenced by past experiences. It's hard to be objective today. A female relative may play an important role in your life right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't worry if you think you're identifying with your possessions too much today. It's normal to have a strong attachment to material things today. (It's because of the Moon.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel a great need to belong to others today. That's why you feel emotionally giving to those around you. (It's also why you're emotionally demanding as well!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try to find some time to be alone today. You'll welcome these moments of solitude. They'll give you an opportunity to reorganize your thoughts and get a warm feeling in your tummy about your world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): A female friend might have something important to say to you today. Be an attentive listener. Remember to listen to the meaning behind the words as well as the words themselves.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Relations with parents, VIPs and bosses are significant today. You might do something that calls attention to you. Be aware of this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might feel a longing to travel somewhere. (You want to blow this pop stand.) You want more out of life! You especially want to learn something new and exciting.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			6		5			
		5	3		8	9		
	7						3	
8	1			9			6	4
			4		1			
6	4			5			9	2
	9						4	
		8	1		9	2		
			2		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/08

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	4	9	2	6	8	5	7	3
8	2	7	3	5	4	6	1	9
6	3	5	7	1	9	2	4	8
9	5	8	6	7	3	4	2	1
4	6	3	1	8	2	9	5	7
2	7	1	4	9	5	3	8	6
5	9	4	8	3	1	7	6	2
7	8	2	9	4	6	1	3	5
3	1	6	5	2	7	8	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/07

DUETS Bistro's Mango Jubilee, Triple Decker Cheese Cake and Tiramisu

MANDY NAVASERO

IN THE MOOD for foie gras? Until June 30, Hotel InterContinental's Prince Albert Rotisserie serves it in these special a la carte dishes: Thin Slices of Homemade Smoked Duck Breast with Shavings of Duck Liver on Green Mesclun Leaves, Duck Liver Terrine with Hazelnut Dressing, Grilled Escalop of Duck Liver on Baby Scallion Potato Galette with Thyme and Apricot Jus, Ravioli of Duck Liver with Mango-Sultana and Light Broth with Wood Mushroom and Black Peppercorn, Duck Liver Cappuccino with Shrimp in Angel Hair Coating and Classic US Beef Tenderloin topped with Warm Duck Liver and Grated Potatoes and Truffle Jus. Call 8159711.

Dine to sweet harmonies at Makati bistro

HAVE A MUSICAL LUNCH 11:30 A.M.-2 P.M. AT **Duets Bistro**, where a classical guitar and flutist play a duet daily. The bistro offers a wide selection of soups, appetizers and main courses, along with wines, spirits and bar mixes. Desserts include Tiramisu Flair, Tri-Color Cheesecake and Mango Jubilee. Sugar-free versions are also available. Located at 5/L, AIM Conference Center, Benavidez St., Legazpi Village, Makati. Call 7501010 locals 216 or 2088.

DINING OUT

THE RICHMONDE Hotel offers a variety of Asian dishes in its international lunch buffet at the Grill, June 8-21. The dishes include Thailand's Pad Thai, Tom Yam Goong and Rice Pudding; Vietnam's Pho Bac; Singapore's Hainanese Chicken, Nasi Goreng and Roti Prata; plus Indonesia and Malaysia's versions of Rendang and Satay. Lunch, available 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday-Friday, costs P585+. Call 6387777 loc. 3409, 3401 and 6898419/8442.

HYATT Hotel and Casino's Market Café features Korean culinary favorites until June 18. Dishes include Kalbi Tang, Haemul Pajeon and Beef Bulgogi prepared by Korean master chef Ki Lee of Grand Hyatt Seoul. Call 2451234.

BAMBOO Lounge, a new Asian-themed fine dining restaurant, has a Chill Out Bar that offers exotic drinks, such as the Calamansi Passion Mint Slush. The restaurant also serves Chicken Basil with Garlic Sauce, Bamboo Boneless Fried Chicken, Stir-fry Broccoli Flower with Tofu in Garlic, Fish Fillet Curry in Hotpot. The Bamboo Lounge is at the 2/L, DLA Building, Justicia Drive, between MC Home Depot and Price Smart. Call 8159536.

TANG City offers almost 200 dishes. Among the bestsellers are Roast Duck, crabs cooked in 12 different ways, and exotic dishes, such as Siao Long Pao, Tong Po Pork, Fried Layered Pao, eight Glutinous Rice and other traditional dim sum and noodle specialties. Special rice toppings include Honey Roast Asado Rice, Soy Chicken Rice and Lechon Macau Rice. Tang City is in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; G/F, Valero Carpark Bldg, Salcedo Village, Makati; 176 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati; Foodparks, Enterprise Center, Makati; Oddysey, LKG Tower, Makati; Taste Buds, 2/L, Robinson's Place Manila; SM Megamall; SM City North Edsa; SM Makati; Gateway Mall; and in SM Mall of Asia. Call 8161340 (Glorietta) or 5231919 (Robinson's Ermita).

DUSIT Hotel's The Café introduces its new Kid's Menu, a selection of children's favorite dishes. The Cafe menu also showcases the best in Mediterranean cuisine, available for lunch and dinner at P850+ per person. Call 8673333.

HYATT Regency Manila's Tempura Misono Restaurant features Yakitori (Japanese barbecue) until June 17. Tempura Misono's Japanese Family Buffet offers a wide selection of pork, chicken, beef, salmon, scallops and prawns. The buffet is available for lunch and dinner. Call 8331234 loc. 81423.

FORK By Twist at Speedzone in Fort Bonifacio now offers pastas, such as fresh tomato-based Angel Hair Pomodoro, Linguini with zesty tuna, Seafood Scampi pasta mixed with squid and shrimp, and pizzas, including the classic Garlic n' Cheese, Meatlovers, Pepperoni, BBQ and special Margherita. Call 8819684.

PANCAKE House presents "Cool Pleasures" with the "Four Seasons Waffle," a combination of the all-time favorite crispy golden-brown waffle topped with peach and mango slices, blueberry, strawberry and a medley of ice cream flavors and the new Vanilla French Toast. Call 8942000 or e-mail phi@pancakehouse.biz

NEW dishes like Ultimate Steak and Seafood Combo, Fish and Chips, Shrimp Arrabiata and Extreme Supreme Nachos are on the menu of Burgoo that opened recently a new branch at the 2/L, Mall of Asia.
Burgoo is open daily, 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Call 9277424, 8981815 to 17, 6875254, 7263578, 9127939 or 5560091.

It's back!

Oooh-la-lamb!

It's love at first bite.
The Australian Lamb Festival.

May 15-June 18, 2006

This May and June enjoy delectable Australian Lamb in countless delicious ways. These participating establishments have created sumptuous lamb dishes for you to enjoy.

Ming Ming — Telephone 521-6682
Annabel Lee — Telephone Greenhills: 724-7440 Timog: 926-6994
Blanco's Café & Winery — Telephone 840-3771
Dine Based on River Cruise — Telephone 726-8242 721-2717
Bollywood Bistro Bar — Telephone 757-3536
Café Havana — Telephone 757-4370
Café Mediterranean — Telephone 896-8625
Carpaccio Ristorante Italiano — Telephone 840-3771
Cirkulo — Telephone 810-8735
Dusit Hotel Nikko — Telephone 867-3333
Florabel — Telephone 638-7527
Telephone 757-2710
Gourdo's — Telephone 845-1700
Hyatt — Telephone 833-1234
Ilustrado — Telephone 527-3674
La Tienda — Telephone 890-4123
le Soufflé — Telephone Fort: 887-5106 Rockwell: 897-7516
Top of the Citi — Telephone 750-5810
Telephone 750-8888
mario's kitchen — Telephone Metrowalk: 638-4379 Ermita: 302-0195
mario's — Telephone 415-3887
Alabang — Telephone 371-1973
Telephone 757-3699
Oh Sabang — Telephone Makati: 818-8251 Pueo: 526-2739
Patio Guernica Restaurant — Telephone 521-4415
people's palace — Telephone 729-2888
pepato cafe & deli — Telephone 757-2636
SALA — Telephone 524-6770
SANTIS Delicatessen — Telephone 840-3771
The French Corner Creative Continental Cuisine — Telephone 771-2345
Palms Country Club — Telephone 771-7171
trio — Telephone 884-1601
Zucchini's — Telephone 925-0789

TAGAYTAY

Highlands — Telephone (046) 413-0888
SANTIS Deli-Café Silang — Telephone (046) 414-2337
Fire Lake Grill — Telephone (046) 413-2069

CEBU

Casino Español de Cebu, Inc. — Telephone (032) 253-1260
David's — Telephone (032) 231-0157
Telephone 09209290561
La Tegola Cucina Italiana — Telephone (032) 232-7435
Marriott Cebu City — Telephone (032) 232-6100
Olio — Telephone (032) 232-3589
The Tinder Box — Telephone (032) 234-1681 09173279619
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino — Telephone (032) 232-6888
Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa — Telephone (032) 492-7777
Winners' Circle — Telephone (032) 253-1091

Official Australian Lamb Suppliers
Monterey
Werdenberg Corp.
We Meet Jedco Your Needs
PTC commercial corporation
mla meat & livestock australia

PAN de Manila's *pan de sal* is freshly baked in traditional wood-fired brick ovens.

Scenes of old Manila

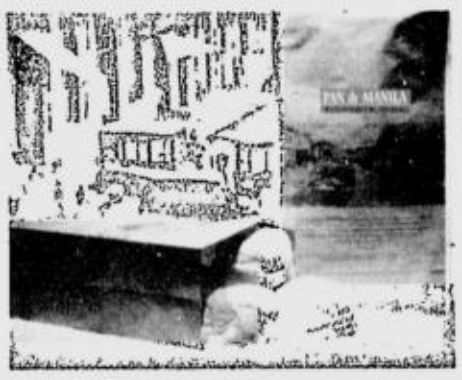
PAN DE MANILA LAUNCHES ITS OLD Manila campaign using limited-edition paper bags as in the old days when *pan de sal* was delivered to people's doorsteps.

The paper bags feature weathered and textured sepia brown images of famous Manila landmarks.

While revisiting the past with the Old Manila campaign, Pan De Manila has also created new products, such as Pan de Manila *pan de sal* and loaves in wheat, pesto wheat and sun-dried tomato wheat variants. Also available are pesto cheese-filled pan de sal and pesto cheesesticks.

Made from San Miguel Mills brand, Purefoods Golden Wheat Flour, Pan De Manila's wheat breads contain whole wheat kernels.

The bakeshop also offers housebrand spreads and *palaman*: sun-dried tomato and herb cream cheese, all-natural coco jam and peanut butter and garlic butter, and Spanish sardines.



PAN de Manila's baked products now in limited-edition Old Manila paper bags

Ringside view of 'pinikpikan' process

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

MY *PINIKPIKAN* EXPERIence consists of eating the dish, twice at the Café by the Ruins and once at Ebay's near the Narda's outlet. It was like tasting *tinolang manok*, only more complex than trying to discern what made this soup dish so mysterious.

My information on the process of making *pinikpikan* was, at most, hearsay. Everyone described it by using the song title "Killing Me Softly" because the main ingredient, a fowl (wild bird, duck or chicken) was beaten to death but gently, if there's such a thing.

The Internet has something on the process, in word and pictures. But there's nothing like seeing it firsthand. And so when a friend, Aling Christie, said she would do it for the family lunch marking our mother's first death anniversary, I looked forward to documenting making *pinikpikan* from scratch.

Bicolana 'expert'

Three native chickens were brought, all from our guest cook's hometown in Naga. It seemed strange that a Bicolana was doing a Cordillera specialty. But she explained that, on her father's side, her grandmother was from the Mt. Province while her grandfather was from Bicol.

And so she and her sister learned how to do the *pinikpikan* in Baguio where she grew up. Surprisingly, they had also been taught the *pinikpikan* by their American teachers in their home economics class at the Easter School where they studied until high school.

I thought it such a wonderful policy to include traditional cooking as part of cooking lessons.

The other important ingredient of *pinikpikan* is the *etag*, the salted pork of the Cordilleras. Pork chunks are cured by salting (hence, its other name is *inasinan*). These are then dried in the cool Cordillera air. *Etag* gives the *pinikpikan* its flavor because no other seasoning, save for more salt, is added to the mix.

But Aling Christie said she had run out of her supply of *etag*. So she bought about a kilo of pork *liempo* (belly), salted it and roasted it on charcoal. It will do, she said.

Odd one

Not one of my siblings wanted to watch, grimacing at the thought of witnessing chicken killed that way. That makes me the odd one in the family. It must have been because I always watched my grandmother start all her chicken dishes from scratch that it never bothered me. I thought that was the only way we could have chicken.

Each of the *pinikpikan* chickens had its wings and feet tied together. The cook took one chicken, removed some of the feathers on its neck and started tapping it with a small flat stick. That both anesthetized and created blood clots, she said.

You want the clots so that when the chicken is cut up, no blood is spilled. The tapping is not done all over the chicken but only around the neck, inside the wings and at the inner thighs.

While tapping the chicken, Aling Christie talked to each fowl, cajoling each to just sleep and thanking each for the service it was doing.

The chicken hardly moved when the tapping was done. But it was still alive, as my son found out when one chicken was lowered into the boiling water for the final kill. It bolted from Aling Christie's firm hold and surprised him.

The hot water makes it easier to remove the rest of the feathers. It also cleans the chicken. The whole chicken is then placed on the grill to burn the skin a bit. After that, each chicken is cut up.

The *etag* is finally cut and placed in the pot together with the chicken pieces. Water is added and then some salt. Everything is boiled.

Aling Christie said it wouldn't take long to cook the *pinikpikan* because the chickens were fat and young. And so, for a little over an hour, the chicken and pork were cooked. The broth turned out to be rich and yellowish.

We all had our spoons and dug in. Everyone kept going back, declaring the *pinikpikan* rich and flavorful and filling. It was better than any *tinola* of native chicken I ever tasted. The chickens and pork were indeed tender. It was the best *pinikpikan* I've had.

THE *PINIKPIKAN'S* rich soup and the chicken pieces

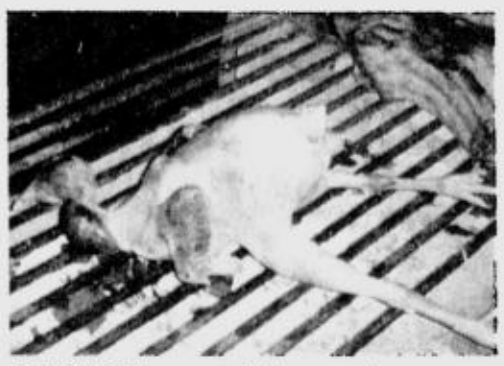
Great cook

It surely had something to do with Aling Christie being a great cook. She didn't have time to do her Arroz Valenciana to partner with the *pinikpikan*, she said. The last time we had it, the rice, including the chicken and everything else mixed in, was cooked perfectly. The secret, she declared, was letting the rice finish properly by cooking over very low fire, the procedure known as *in-in*.

And she made the best *laing*, smooth and creamy when taken. She said she made sure the *gabi* (taro) leaves were from a particular place in Naga, picked by someone who really knew how, so the leaves didn't make the eater itch.

Pinikpikan can be just a dish, albeit an exotic one, especially for lowlanders. But Aling Christie said the cooking process could be a ritual that included prayers known as the *ata*. She said, with the prayers, were the acts of drinking a little gin from a small glass and puffing on a cigarette.

The ritual of the *pinikpikan* was taught Aling Christie by her grandmother. None of her three daughters was interested. She has been training one of her nieces. This had to be passed on to the next generation, she said.



ROASTING is a part of the procedure. Chicken skin is burnt a bit while the *etag* is cooked all over.

THE RITUAL starts with the tapping of the chicken on the neck, under the wings and the inner thighs.

WE'VE JUST TURNED ONE.

(AND SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY SAY WE'RE NO. 1)

Mezz! small plate dining

Level 1, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. (632) 728-8896 • (632) 889-7416